The New-York Times.

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FROM PORT ROYAL AND TYBEE.

ARRIVAL OF THE EMPIRE CITY.

Important Reconnoissances and Scouts on the Mainland of South Carolina.

A NUMBER OF REBELS MADE PRISONERS.

Our Forces Steadily Increasing the Area of Operations.

A Landing Within Fifteen Miles of Charleston.

Demoralized Condition of the South Carolinians.

Sixteen Thousand Negroes Without Masters in Beaufort District.

Progress of the Fortifications on Tybee Island.

The English Steamer Fingal Trying to Run the Blockade.

The steam transport *Empire City*, Capt. BAXTER, from Beaufort Dec. 24, and Port Royal Dec. 25, arrived at this port yesterday morning.

The *Empire City* discharged her cargo at Beaufort and is, without doubt, the largest vessel ever at that place. Whan coming out of Port Royal she came through the southeast channel, which has recently been buoyed out, and found not less than *thirty feet* water in any part.

Nothing of special importance had transpired at Port Royal since the safling of the *Baltic*.

Large quantities of cotton had been gathered and stored in the Government warehouses. In one day, six large wagons, filled with loose cotton gathered in the vicinity of Hilton Head, passed through the place to the warehouse.

Workmen are engaged in building another wharf.

The negroes continue to come down in great numbers. Many of them are very well dressed, having supplied themselves with their masters' best clothes. One negro remarked to an officer of the *Empire City* that his master was in such haste to run away from Beaufort, that he took off his coat and threw it upon the ground. It soon after adorned the shoulders of his sable servant, who was standing by and witnessed the transaction.

A portion of the Seventy-ninth Regiment had made a reconnoissance, about 15 miles from Beaufort, on the 20th December, and captured six rebels at a place called the Brick-yards.

At Tybee Island, the troops were still engaged making intrenchments, while Fort Pulaski kept up a continual fire on the island, but had done no damage. The work on the intrenchments is prosecuted with vigor. They are situated about half a mile from Fort Pulaski and will soon be ready for occupation.

Gen. SHERMAN is receiving reinforcements weekly, and as soon as his force is sufficiently augmented, there is little doubt that an attack will be made. Important movements are in progress, pointing toward the taking of Savannah, and it is thought that before many days have elapsed, Savannah will be in possession of the National troops. It is estimated that the rebel force in Savannah amounts to about two thousand men. A rumor was afloat, the day before the *Empire City* sailed, that the rebels had transferred several heavy guns from Fort Pulaski to Savannah, but the rumor was not credited, there being no indications that the rebels intended to abahdon that stronghold.

Our Government had sent to Tybee Island several guns of the heaviest calibre, besides three or four immense mortars.

The *Empire City* also brings a large mail from Port Royal.

On the 23d a rebel boat came down in Warsaw Channel from Savannah to reconnoitre, as was supposed, and see if the way was clear for the English steamer *Fingal*, (which ran the blockade a short time since, and is now loaded with cotton) to come out. On being chased by one of our gunboats, they ran their boat ashore, and the crew took to the woods. Our people caught two of them, who are now on board the *Wabash*.

The *Empire City* brings home the following persons from the stone fleet:

Capt. Worth, two officers and crew, of the ship *Archer*.
Capt. Brown, two officers and crew, of the ship *Potomac*.
Capt. Beard, two officers and crew, of the ship *American*.
Capt. Malloy, two officers and crew, of the ship *Richmond*.
Capt. Willis, two officers and crew, of the ship *R. Sims*.
Capt. Taylor, two officers and crew, of the ship *Harvest*.
Capt. Tilton, two officers and crew, of the ship *Kensington*.
Capt. Swift, two officers and crew, of the ship *Amazon*.
Capt. Wood, two officers and crew, of the ship *Valparaiso*.
Capt. Lake, two officers and crew, of the ship *Wm. Lee*.
Capt. Skinner, two officers and crew, of the ship *Robin Hood*.
Capt. Rice, two officers and crew, of the ship *Fortune*.
Capt. Sisson, two officers and crew, of the ship *Tenedos*.
Capt. Taller, two officers and crew, of the ship *Emerald*.
Capt. Brayton, two officers and crew, of the ship *Courier*.
Capt. Chase, two officers and crew, of the ship *America*.
Capt. Bailey, two officers and crew, of the ship *M. Theresa*.
First Officer Washburn, and Second Officer and crew, of the ship *Corea*.
Capt. Gifford, two officers and crew, of the ship *Herald*.
First Officer King and Second Officer and crew, of the ship *Leonidas*.

Of the above vessels the *Harvest* and *Valparaiso* are store-ships at Port Royal, the *Corea*, is made a wharf of at same place, the *Emerald* was lost on Tybee bar, and the remaining 16 ships were sunk off Charleston to blockade the channel.

There are also as passengers:

Col. Lee Strickland, Eighth Maine Regiment.
Lieut. L. I. Smith, Eighth Maine Regiment.
Capt. E. H. Hinds, Ninth Maine Regiment.
Capt. T. E. Wentworth, Ninth Maine Regiment.
Capt. E. W. Wedgeworth, Ninth Maine Regiment.
Capt. T. E. Newell, Fourth New-Hampshire Regiment.
Capt. W. C. Shinloch, Roundheads, Pa.
Capt. R. G. Newel, Forty-seventh New-York Regiment.
Lieut. E. W. Patterson, Forty-eighth New-York Regiment.
Lieut. J. R. Caughey, Roundheads, Pa.
Lieut. J. R. Sealey, Forty-seventh New-York Regiment.
J. Cross, of Adams & Company Express.
Rev. C. W. Dennison.
Rev. P. S. Evans.
H. A. Fuller, of Brooklyn.
And 15 in the steerage.

OUR PORT ROYAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The Importance of the Slave Question—Sixteen Thousand Slaves Without Masters in Beaufort District—What the Slaves Say of their Masters—An Important Reconnoissance Within Fifteen Miles of Charleston—Dispersion of a Large Rebel Force—The Desperate Straits of the Rebels, &c.

HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL, S. C., Monday, Dec. 23, 1861.

The extreme impropriety of sending home details of military movements in advance, or in fact affording any premature information whatever, somewhat restricts the choice of subjects; but there is one whose interest is neverfailing, and in regard to which new developments are constantly occurring. The slave question cannot lose its importance—cannot become hackneyed. There are now in Beaufort District, alone, I am informed by official personages, nearly 16,000 slaves, whose masters have fled, and Beaufort District is but a small portion of the country at present in our hands. I have accompanied a number of the reconnoissances made in all directions from this post, both by sea and land; have witnessed the exploration of the country from Tybee Island on the South, to North Edisto on the North, an extent of at least sixty miles, and have penetrated as far into the interior, on some of these excursions, as our troops have yet gone. Everywhere, I find the same state of things existing; everywhere the blacks hurry in droves to our lines; they crowd in small boats around our ships; they swarm upon our decks; they hurry to our officers, from the cotton-houses of their masters, in an hour or two after our guns are fired. I am writing now, not what I have heard, but what I have seen. I am not sending you opinions, or conclusions at which I have arrived, but facts that I have observed. I mean each statement I make to be taken literally; it is not garnished for rhetorical effect, but put into such a form as will most exactly convey to the mind of a reader the impression made on me. I have seen negroes who reported themselves as just escaped from their masters, who came breathless to our forces, and said they dared not go back, for their masters would kill them; who told that their masters were at that moment armed and threatening to shoot any slave that did not fly with them; who declared they had tricked their owners and came away in boats that they were bidden to take back to the whites. I have talked with drivers and field-hands, with house-maids and coachmen and body-servants, who were apparently as eager to escape as any. I have heard the blacks point out how their masters might be caught, where they were hidden, what were their forces. I have seen them used as guides and pilots. I have been along while they pointed out in what houses stores of arms and ammunition were kept, and where bodies of troops were stationed. In a few hours I have known this information verified. I have asked them about the sentiment of the slave population, and been invariably answered that everywhere it is the same.

I have invariably been told by the negroes that they were not welfifed. The first reason a black man, or woman, or child assigns for deserting his owner is the small quantity and poor quality of food given him; the next reason is the same story about clothing; then comes the complaint of hard usage, hard work, and occasionally of cruelty. The last is rare, in my experience. The most of them speak, it is true, of instances where negroes have been recently shot, but few allude to previous hardships worse than whipping. Of late, the accusations of masters shooting their slaves are more frequent, indicating (this is inference) that the desperation of the rebels increases.

I wish also to make some definite statements of what I have seen of the condition of the country, and of the behavior of the whites. These statements will be either directly based on my personal knowledge or experience, or on what I learned while on these excursions, from actors or spectators, so soon after the occurrence that to reject them would be absurd. The entire coast from Warsaw Sound, forty miles below Port Royal, at least to North Edisto Inlet, forty miles above the same place, is deserted by its white inhabitants; the slaves are everywhere practically free; the batteries, which are erected at every point where ingress could be had by an invading force, were undoubtedly all abandoned within a week after the fight at Hilton Head, and the guns removed. This state of affairs exists inwards for a distance at the least of ten miles, and in many places of thirty. Half the cotton houses in this region must have been burnt, in a majority of instances by troops, not by their owners. The only places where firing of any importance has occurred against our forces are the Ossabaw Sound, and about seven miles up Warsaw River. At these two places batteries have still been retained. These are both in Georgia, but unless on Stone Inlet, there is no place on the coast of South Carolina below Charleston where the rebel flag yet flaunts. At no place in South Carolina have the rebels showed fight since their defeat on the 7th of November. Beaufort was at once abandoned, and our reconnoitering parties have nowhere encountered an enemy. Bluffton has been approached by the *Mayflower*, an unarmed ferry-boat, and no gun fired; pickets of the enemy have been driven in, have been captured, but never except in one solitary instance on Port Royal Island fired a musket. A large reconnoissance made last week in gunboats went within fifteen miles in a direct line from Charleston, landed at a town called Rockville, where 500 rebel troops had been posted, but these scampered before the landing was complete, and left their tents, camp equipage, important letters and papers in the hands of our troops, not firing a gun; although their numbers must at least have quadrupled those whowere sent ashore; so the original panic seems not at all to have subsided—(an inference.) The slaves have, in various instances, assisted in the capture of their masters, have also, several times of late, asked to be armed, which was not originally the case. Colonies of them have been established, not only at Hilton head, but on Otter Island in St. Helena Sound, and at the mouth of Edisto Inlet. At both these places they are protected either by gunboats or by the guns of the batteries put up by the rebels, but now occupied by Union forces. Schooners belonging to the rebels have been chased in these inland waters and captured or burnt. The universal story of the negroes is, that the poor whites are unwilling to fight and certainly there seems an unwillingness somewhere. If ever South Carolina desperation is to be manifested, one would think it would be now; they talk in their newspapers and in the private letters I have seen of hoisting the black flag; of neither giving nor asking quarter; but we have taken a number of prisoners, who seemed not averse to submitting to the fate of prisoners of war. They have allowed small parties to venture near them under unfavorable circumstances, without ever making an attempt to cut them off; they have allowed single gunboats to get aground six or seven miles in from the coast, and to lie in this comparatively solitary and defenceless condition all night, and indeed for twenty-four hours, without molesting them; they have not stood when their pickets were appaoached by small parties on water and in exposed situations. All this may be part of a concerted plan, to induce a feeling of security in the Yankees, but the facts are exactly as I state. *Not a solitary instance of pluck has been manifested by South Carolinians since their defeat.* They shoot their unarmed negroes, and burn their own cotton houses, but no other example of desperation has yet been afforded.

The straits to which the rebels are reduced have probably become familiar to you by newspapers from the South which you have seen. Those which I send you by this mail indicate very plainly that their destitution is at least equal to their desperation. The reports of negroes who announce themselves to have come within a day or two from Charleston and Savannah, are eminently corroborative of this condition of affairs. They state that coffee sells there for $1 50 a pound; they complain of not having seen salt, even on their masters' tables, for months, except what was made from sea water. The long lines of advertisements in the *Mercury* and Savannah papers of plantations for sale, some of which are recommended as beyond the line of defence, are significant. The letters that have been found all allude to the hard times, and the journals make no mention of any hope of relief. A considerable number of disaffected persons must exist even in this State; for allusions are not unfrequent that indicate this. The Governor issues a proclamation for 12,000 more volunteers, and announces that, if these are not forthcoming, a draft will immediately be resorted to. Strange that such a threat should be necessary at this juncture in the Palmetto State. Communications are published calling attention to those who refuse to burn their cotton, and stating openly that there are mechanics, merchants and others who are faint-hearted in the cause. The planters having called upon the Government for aid, it is stated in the State Legislature that the bankers are as badly off as the planters, and that the merchants have ships rotting by the side of the wharves, and the wharf-owners' wharves, rotting by the side of the ships. Although every occurrence in which the troops of Union men came in contact with those of South Carolina is misstated grossly, (I speak carefully and knowingly,) no attempt is made to conceal the state of want and the extreme of suffering which exists. It is felt that concealment is impossible. An editorial article remarks that there is more danger to the South from the talk of reconstruction than from all the battles which Federalists can win. Earnest appeals to the chivalry are made in the columns of both the Charleston papers to enlist; the Keitts, and the Barnswells, and the Seabrooks, call upon their fellows, but the appeal evidently needs to be kept up.

The gunboats have done immense injury to the coast—injury, however, not of a piratical nature. Cotton has been seized, and slaves have been received, but I have been witness to the scrupulousness with which officers have avoided firing on the houses of peaceable, though rebellious inhabitants, and to the care they have manifested to pay for articles of the nature of forage, taken from plantations where negroes remained. Dwelling-houses have not been burned; property has not, except in occasional instances, been wantonly destroyed. Of course stores of every description, that could be useful to our troops, have been seized, but these only when they had been abandoned by the enemy. Cotton is being rapidly secured, perhaps not in such large quantities as might be desired, as the burning of the baled material has been very extensive, but still the worth of millions of dollars will be obtained. The blacks are beginning to discover that we wish to secure it, and apprise us beforehand, in some instances, when a destruction is about to be attempted.

One singular result of the war is thus far apparent; the negroes leave no doubt in the mind of any sensible person that they have recently received but inferior and insufficient food and clothing; as it must have been to the interest of the masters to provide well for their slaves, and as many, if not all of the masters, have been persons of ordinary humanity, I do not doubt that heretofore this has been the case. The sufferings and want of the slaveholders have probably aggravated the condition of the slaves, and made these readier to desert their former owners. The absurd attempts of Southern papers to pretend that the blacks are still loyal, can only excite a compassionate smile. The poor wretches cling to this hope, the absence of which would present to them so appalling a future.

The slaves not yet escaped, of course, pretend to be faithful, but some have told me how they said to their masters and mistresses on the day of the fight, "The Yankees will be whipped, Massa and Missus," but all the while they prayed and believed otherwise. So, casual allusions are made in Charleston papers to the fidelity of their "servants," as if it were a matter of coerse, but there is no labored discussion of a subject too terrible for discussion. As for my own judgment—it may not be worth much—but I came hither prepared to find all the negroes attached to their masters, and I have gradually observed a feeling of bitterness displayed by the blacks; at first there was only elation at their own escape; of late this has been mingled with indignation at the insane attempt of the masters to fire on them; I have known of several instances where slaves asked for arms to fire on their own masters, (this was the case with Col. WHITMARSH SEABROOK'S live stock near Edisto;) I have known where slaves assisted in the capture of their masters; I have sometimes asked myself whether the time might not come when arming the blacks and regularly drilling them as soldiers under white officers, might not prove the only means of averting the odious horrors of a servile insurrection. That time appears to me not to have yet come even here; but it may be nearer than any of us suppose. The blacks fall to plundering as soon as their masters flee, and go by our lines confidently with their arms or their boats laden with plunder; and it is hardly the business of Federal troops to look after the property of rebels. From pillaging within an hour after the master is gone, from firing on him as soon as he attempts to fly, from assisting in his capture, and informing us beforehand of his designs—the step to absolute insurrection is not a wide one. The foolish clamor of radicals at home may as well cease; the day may be near when the worst results that can be apprehended will fall upon the devoted heads of these South Carolinians. Rumors already of rebellious slaves come to us from different parts of the country, and those who were Union people to the last chance, are said to be the sufferers. This is what makes the horrors of servile war so greatly to be dreaded. Thousands of loyal Southerners, only waiting for a chance to display their loyalty to any effect, will be involved in its fiercest calamities. It would be a pity to provoke these calamities at a moment when the pressure of other troubles, financial, military and political, seems almost to have set a strangling grasp at the very throat of rebellion. If it be possible, let the cup of social agony pass away from those who have not deserved to drain its terrible bitterness.

The news from the latest reconnoissance is important. Capt. DRAYTON, of the *Pawnee*, and Capt. AMMEN, of the *Seneca*, were sent by Commodore DUPONT, to examine North Edisto Inlet; they were accompanied by Capt. BOUTELLE, of the *Vixen*, whose knowledge of the coast rendered his aid valuable. The party discovered a deserted fort at the inlet, and entering the river, proceeded up a distance of six or eight miles. Rockville, a town of perhaps 1,000 inhabitants, had been deserted, said the negroes, since the original fight at Hilton Head; it was occupied, until the arrival of Capts. DRAYTON and AMMEN, by 400 or 500 rebel troops who decamped as soon as the Federal vessels fired into the fort at the entrance. Capt. DRAYTON landed, and found forty tents, which he seized, together with a schooner, camp equipage, arms and similar stores. The condition in which the camp was found rendered it certain that the flight had been expeditious. Flags, and letters, and papers were also discovered. Capt. AMMEN proceeded further up the river, chased and burned a rebel schooner; fired into and dispersed a rebel force of twenty or thirty men; got aground in the shallow waters, and lay all night very much exposed, but unable to get away until the turn of the tide, but unattacked; in every direction, cotton-houses, to at least the number of twenty, were set on fire, and from all sides negroes, to the number of 200 or 300, came in to the National ships. A few prisoners were taken, and Col. SEABROOK came near being added to the number; he left, in great haste, a house where arms and colors were found, leaving his hat and coat, marked with his name. He was fired at, in his flight. A colony of negroes was established at the mouth of the inlet, under the cover of a gunboat left to protect them, and the exultations of the blacks, thus located almost within the walls of the battery built to keep off the Yankees, were boisterous and prayerful, by turns, and sometimes both at once.

The expedition also reconnoitred South Edisto, and discovered, at its entrance, a battery where eight or nine guns appeared to have been mounted, but which had been removed; the condition of Stone Inlet was also ascertained: it is not proper, at present, that I should report it. V.

Gratifying Decrease in the Number of Sick—Energetic Operations of Gen. Stevens—Important Developments Made by Our Scouts—The Available Rebel Force in the Vicinity—Prisoners Captured—A South Carolina Family History, &c.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1861.

Beyond an important reconnoissance of the North Edisto and Stono Rivers, (of which you will receive a full description from another correspondent,) nothing of much interest has occurred here since the last mail. Therefore, in the dearth of news, I shall string together a few "unconsidered trifles," and send them, with the hope that they may be not altogether unacceptable.

The most gratifying announcement which I can make is, that a marked diminution of the sick list is apparent. Fevers and small-pox, which, since the occupation, have carried off more than a hundred victims, seem to have spent their energies, as the troops, taught by experience, are learning to avoid their engendering causes. There is prevailing, however, a sort of bronchial affection, which is very disagreeable. It is, doubtless, occasioned by the change in the temperature, from the uncomfortable heat in the day-time to the chilliness of the heavy dews at night; and the inhalation of the fine sand, which is constantly swept through the camps by the high winds, aggravates the complaint.

Gen. STEVENS has been very energetic since the occupation of Beaufort. He has pushed forward his forces, and now has full possession of Ladies', Cat and Cave Islands, as well as that of Port Royal. Sometimes, however, marauding parties of rebels come over at night and set fire to the cotton-houses. The ferry at Port Royal is held by the Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment and the Eighth Michigan, and the line of the island, extending about five miles opposite the main land, is occupied by our forces. Scouts have penetrated into the rebel country within a very short distance of Savannah, and the position of every rebel picket within five miles of our outposts has been ascertained. This scouting business is very exciting. Trusty men are selected, who go singly, each depending upon his own shrewdness to escape from the enemy's clutches. One of them told me, the other day, of his having gone through the woods, close to the enemy's pickets, walking stealthily, with his finger upon the trigger of his piece, as if he were hunting squirrels instead of human beings—of course with this difference: that in the first case he probably would have fired, but in the last he would not, unless it became necessary to do so. Capt. ELLIOTT, of the Seventy-ninth New-York Regiment, has directed most of these scouting parties, and it is the opinion of his men that the enemy could marshal a force of from fifteen to twenty thousand at any desired point in front of our lines, in the course of three or four days.

A week since Lieut. PORTER, of the Eighth Michigan Regiment, went over, with eight of his men, to the main land, and, after marching about ten miles beyond our outposts into Secessia, came suddenly upon a rebel picket, consisting of a corporal and five men. Shots were exchanged, and two of the enemy were slightly wounded, but neither of our men were hurt. The whole six were made prisoners, and by daylight next morning they had been safely lodged in Beaufort. Lieut. PORTER and his men, to accomplish this feat, walked at least forty miles.

One of our scouting parties the other day visited Cat Island, where they found the plantation and residence of Mr. WILLIAM H. TRESCOTT, late Assistant Secretary of State, under BUCHANAN'S Administration. The building seemed to have been hurriedly abandoned, judging from the large quantity of furniture, personal property and the exceedingly valuable library which had been left.

Paymaster Maj. PANGBORN had a narrow escape from rebel bullets a few days since. He had been with Gen. STEVENS in a carriage from Beaufort to visit the posts on the island, and when near Port Royal Ferry the General dispatched him forward alone, intending to follow shortly on horseback. The Paymaster was not long in reaching the guard at the head of the causeway, at the end of which, half a mile distant, was the ferry. In the exercise of an excusable curiosity he passed down the road with the carriage, finding at the end of it a Sergeant and three men of the Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment. After taking a leisurely survey of the surroundings, Maj. PANGBORN wanted to know what regiment those gray-uniformed men, half a dozen in number, stationed fifty yards away on the other side of the ferry, belonged to. The Sergeant, in some surprise, exclaimed: "Why, they're the secesh!" Imagine the Major's surprise at having offered himself a "shining mark" for the rebels to practice upon. Deeming it his best chance to put a bold face upon the matter, he continued his reconnoissance, and after a few minutes drove slowly away. Either the custom of shooting pickets and stragglers is not looked upon with such favor here as it was on the Potomac, or the coolness of Maj. PANGBORN led the enemy to suspect that he was one of their own people endeavoring to get over the ferry.

Gen. STEVENS is pursuing a very good plan with the negroes who come to him for protection. He makes them all work, which they do cheerfully and readily, upon the promise of receiving wages. Instead of allowing them soldiers' rations, as is done at Hilton Head, he gives them bacon and corn, just such fare as that to which they have been accustomed, although in larger quantities. They appear to be well satisfied with the arrangement, which has the advantage of being much more economical.

In a late visit I made to Dr. ELLIOTT'S plantation on Hilton Head I found a group of six straight-haired, bright-looking mulatto children, seated around the door-step of one of the negro cabins, eating ravenously the boiled sweet potatoes which a decrepid old man was distributing among them with apparently great solicitude.

The little ones were neatly dressed, which is an exception to the rule, and they were otherwise more attractive than any I had yet seen. I inquired into their history, which at once affords an illustration of a slaveholder's morality, and his brother's honesty. "Oh, no sah! Dese are massa's children," said the old man, in reply to my question as to whether he was their grandfather. "Dere mudder name ROSE; he lib wid her as he wife, and when he die, some time ago, he make her and de children free." Then he told me that ROSE had gone over to Gen. VIELE'S camp to do washing for the officers; and that she had come with herself and family to the Yankees to escape being sold into slavery by her master's relations. I could not fully understand all that the old man said, but I heard enough to determine me to learn ROSE'S story from herself, if possible. Yesterday, therefore, I was at Gen. VIELE'S quarters, and made inquiries after ROSE. She was not there, but I was introduced to a young man named ISRAEL, who gave me an intelligible history of ROSE and her children. He said that he and ROSE belonged to the same master. His name was JAMES GARRARD, and his plantation was 4½ miles from Bluffton. It was well-stocked with cattle, and some "fifty head of niggers." Mr. GARRARD, about eleven years since, wanted to marry a fine lady, but she "kicked him," (ISRAEL'S word for rejected,) and, in spite, he took ROSE to live with him. He bought her in Savannah, expressly for the purpose. "I went with him for her in de buggy," said ISRAEL, "and 'fore he pay for she, he bring her home and try if she good cook and make pastry. He find she good, stirrin' woman, and he keep her." He added that GARRARD had seven children by her,—two boys and five girls,—the eldest of which, a girl about ten years of age, was then living in Savannah. Over a year ago, GARRARD died, leaving a will which called for the sale of his entire real estate, slaves, cattle, and other property, excepting ROSE and his own children, who were manumitted. Out of the proceeds of the sale of the property a home was to be purchased for ROSE and her young family, and the balance of the funds was to be placed at interest, of which she was to receive one thousand dollars a year for the support of herself and children, and the remainder was bequeathed to his brother-in-law, ELLIOTT GARRARD, of Savannah.

This disposition of the property did not suit ELLIOTT GARRARD'S views, and he has interposed obstacles to carrying out the provisions of the will. ROSE, meantime, has been living on the plantation, where matters have remained comparatively the same as when JAMES GARRARD died. After our forces had taken Hilton Head, and when the people of Savannah were in a "big scare," ELLIOTT GARRARD went to ROSE and wanted her to retreat into the country, somewhere in Barnwell district, but she dreaded that he might sell her and refused to go. Next day she abandoned her home, took her family, and sought Yankee protection. I am told by those who know ROSE, that she is a fine looking, intelligent woman. She is very black, but her figure is perfect, and in her neat mourning dress and bonnet, unless her face is seen, she might be mistaken for as haughty a dame as South Carolina can produce. Her chief attraction however is her conversation, which is marked by intelligence respecting the objects of the war, and many other subjects connected with it. She speaks understandingly of her own affairs, the injustice of the executors of the will, and her intention of going North, where her children may have a chance in life, as soon as she can get her other child from Savannah.

In speaking to ISRAEL yesterday, I am afraid I made him uncomfortable for the rest of the day. Said I,

"Do you like stopping here better than on the plantation?"

"Oh! yes, sir," he said promptly.

"What will you do when the soldiers leave here?"

At this question, the look of surprise which passed over ISRAEL'S face was irresistibly droll. He finally replied.

"I'd go wi' 'em!"

"But suppose they won't let you?" I said.

"Den I jump into de boat!"

"Ah!" I answered, "they might put you out again!"

It was evident that no such contingency had presented itself to his mind before. He simply ejaculated, with great emphasis, as if overwhelmed with astonishment and fear at the bare idea,

"Christ A'mighty!"

I asked him what he was afraid of, and he replied if "Massa ELLIOTT GARRARD catch me, might as well be dead—he kill me, certain." I reassured him of his safety before we parted.

Now that the defences, storehouses and other buildings here are almost finished, the soldiers have been to a great extent relieved from working as laborers in the trenches and upon the buildings, and opportunity is afforded them for drills. Feeling the importance of the matter, a generous rivalry exists between the several regiments of each brigade, with the view of excelling the other in proficiency. Gen. WRIGHT'S encampment is located on a field, near the shore, directly to the right of Fort Welles, and the hard sand of the beach, at low water, makes an admirable parade-ground. The tents of Gen. VIELE'S Brigade are pitched to the west of the fort, about three-quarters of a mile, and a large cotton-field, contiguous to the encampment, has been cleared and rendered level enough for the performance of evolutions. A walk through the camps, at any hour of the day, shows a lively scene as the men engage in their company drills, preparatory to the regimental dress parades, which follow just before nightfall.

Without making an invidious remark I may say that VIELE'S Brigade is especially noticeable for the spirit which distinguishes it in its drills and parades. During the past two Sundays a brigade line has been formed, and the command has been reviewed by the General and his Staff. The men, dressed in their Winter uniform, when drawn into line, present a substantial appearance, conveying the idea of invincibility; and afterwards, when they break into companies and march past the reviewing officers, first at common, and then at double-quick time, they seem to be the embodiment of irresistible force.

The Forty-eighth Regiment, Col. PERRY, well-known as the Continental Guard, of Brooklyn, carries off the palm for proficiency in field movements. Last Sunday Gen. VIELE'S command, during its evolutions, was honored by the presence of two lady witnesses, who arrived here in the *Vanderbilt*. The sight of beings of the gentle sex is so uncommon in these parts, that the incident in question has afforded a topic of conversation ever since.

Another interesting feature connected with this brigade, wherein it differs from the other, is its guard-mounting. In accordance with Gen. SHERMAN'S orders, the guards of the entire division are mounted at 4 o'clock every afternoon. These guards consist of one company from each regiment. Instead of mounting them, as is the usual custom, by detailing the companies singly for the duty, the occasion, which always is one of "pomp and circumstance," is made seven-fold more interesting and imposing by mounting all the guards together. The five companies detailed, numbering about 600 men, are marched upon the field, formed in line on the brigade parade-ground by Capt. PIERRE C. KANE, Assistant Adjutant-General, after which their arms and accoutrements are inspected by the field-officer of the day. The most novel part of the affair is the monster band, *a la* JULIEN, comprising all the musicians of the brigade. It consists of 85 instruments and 24 drummer-boys, and is under the leadership of the bandmaster of the Third New-Hampshire Regiment. The precedent for mounting guard in this way is found in the practice of some of the regiments during the campaign in Mexico, but Capt. KANE receives great praise for reviving the ceremony, and for the agreeable way in which it is performed under his direction.

Mr. SEARS, the efficient Postmaster here, intends to establish a daily paper, which will contain the latest local and foreign intelligence. There is ample room for such an enterprise, and it will meet with ready support. The prospectus of the embryotic journal will soon be issued. Mr. SEARS has a small printing-office in operation now, and a vast amount of labor is saved to the clerks in the department of Capt. PALOUZE, the Assistant Adjutant-General of the division, by the printing of the numerous orders and other documents, of which many copies are required.

The soldiers are under excellent discipline. A general Court-martial has just closed its session. Few cases were brought before it, and those only of a trivial character.

Tybee Island has been reinforced, and Gen. WRIGHT has made it his headquarters. The position there is now considered tenable.

There is great cause for complaint here at the detention of some of the steam transports. Many of these vessels came down with the original expedition and have been lying idly at anchor in the roadstead ever since, with their cargoes as unbroken as on the day they left New-York, more than two months ago. Why this should be I am puzzled to understand. Not one of the vessels in question receives as charter-money less than $1,000 per day, and the limited means for discharging them does not seem to my mind a sufficient reason for their detention. These steamships make very expensive storehouses, which are not superior in any respect to those which can be got cheaper.

Since our establishment here there has been ample time to have had built at the North a couple of capacious steam flat-boats, which are the only means that can be used advantageously until a proper wharf shall have been built. But from the first the authorities have been content to land their stores and everything else in lighters, which never have been adequate for the purpose, and are now so decreased in numbers by hard usage that only eight are serviceable. Think of the time consumed in taking out the cargo of a steamer and landing it through a heavy surf in this way. It is true that a dock is now in progress of construction, which it is hoped will meet the desired end; but many weeks must pass before it is ready, and meanwhile the slow style at present prevailing is likely to be followed. It would save a great many dollars to the Government if the cargoes of the steamers were discharged into schooners, of which there are a great many in port, and it is singular that such a plan has not been adopted. H. J. W.

THE EUROPEAN MAILS.

RECEPTION OF THE NEWS BY THE NIAGARA

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

Continued Agitation of the Trent Affair.

Thurlow Weed's Letter to the London Times.

THE ANSWER OF THE TIMES.

Commander Williams' Account of the Search of the Trent.

The Surrender of Slidell and Mason not to Suspend Preparations for War.

EFFORTS OF THE PEACE PARTY.

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Mails by the steamship *Niagara*, at Boston, from Liverpool, Dec. 14, calling at Queenstown on the 15th, were received here early yesterday morning.

They are only two days later than those by the *Nova Scotian*.

Mr. CHARLES BUXTON addressed his constituents on the American question. The honorable gentleman, with great earnestness and force, argued in favor of submitting the difficulty to arbitration. While he differed from the American newspapers in the view they had taken of the affair of the *Trent*, he yet showed that their appeal, like our own, had been made to the rules and precedents of international law, and that, therefore, this was a case in which reason should be employed rather than force. Mr. BUXTON'S opinions appear to have met with general acceptance, and his speech was succeeded by a hearty vote of thanks.

A meeting on the same subject has been held in Bristol. Mr. JOHN CASSELL delivered an address strongly sympathizing with the Northern States, and deprecating war with America as a fratricidal and unnatural contest. The chair was taken by Mr. CHARLTON, an old and well-known citizen of Bristol; and a memorial to Lord PALMERSTON, praying that, if necessary, recourse might be had to arbitration, was proposed by Mr. Commissioner HILL, and unanimously agreed to.

Lord ROBERT MONTAGU, M. P., had addressed a meeting at Huntingdon. On the American subject *he said he could not help expressing his belief that the Americans had merely exercised the indubitable rights of belligerents.* It was idle to say that the *Trent* should have been taken away some thousands of miles for adjudication in a Prize Court, and he thought all the arguments founded upon that basis were utterly fallacious and unworthy of consideration. The right of search had always been upheld in this country, and, in his opinion, this frenzy—this panic of war—had been created for the purpose of procuring a sanction to the unauthorized declaration of Paris in 1856, which declaration resigned the right of search, without the existence of which no blockade could be maintained.

At the General Shipowner's Association offices, in London, a meeting of members took place, on the 13th, at which the present threatening aspect of relations with America, and the injurious action on commerce produced by the present state of affairs, were brought under discussion. It was shown by several of the speakers that the British shipowner suffered severely in consequence of the unsatisfactory position of the question of the rights of neutrals. It was not known whether the American Government intended to respect neutral goods in neutral vessels; the consequence was, that at Hong-Kong and other ports British vessels were placed at a great disadvantage, shippers preferring foreign vessels, even at higher freights. Should hostilities unhappily ensue, British ships would not be able to get freights at all if the question were left in its present doubtful position. It was also pointed out to the meeting that the route to India, China, and Australia by the Cape of Good Hope, Cape Horn, St. Helena and the Western Islands, was entirely unprotected, and that the valuable ships and cargoes which were constantly passing and repassing on that line would be quite at the mercy of enemy's ships and privateers should war be declared. The meeting unanimously agreed that drafts of two letters—one to Earl RUSSELL, the other to the Admiralty—should be immediately prepared, and placed in the hands of Mr. BONAR, (the Secretary,) for transmission to the proper quarters. The letter to Earl RUSSELL, after pointing out the necessity for some exposition of the rights of neutrals, prayed his lordship to take such steps as would tend to put an end to the alarm and uncertainty which now prevailed in the shipping interests at large. The letter to the Admiralty suggested the expediency of making some better provision for the protection of commerce than at present exists.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ISSUE,

The Condition of Public Sentiment in England—A Ground Current toward Peace—Bad Position of the British Ministry—Aversion of the Queen to War—A Plain Course for the United States Government, &c.

From Our Own Correspondent.

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 14, 1861.

Little change has taken place, this week, in the position of affairs in England. It is, in point of fact, rather difficult to ascertain what the precise state of feeling is, or to estimate with much exactness the relative strength of the war and peace parties. The spirit of hostility to the United States still continues as deep and as strong as ever. Politicians still crow in their highest notes over the failure of republican institutions, and the newspapers are filled with extravagant abuse of America, her people, her statesmen, and her principles, in a style little, if at all, superior to that of the New-York *Herald*. *Punch* and the other caricaturists indulge in a style of humor that shows more bitterness than wit. The streets are still echoing threats and insults. At the theatres, the audiences continue to applaud every allusion to the present state of affairs, and with the more enthusiasm as these allusions are the more warlike. At EVANS', crowded rooms cheer every night a new song which tells how the Yankees are to be used up, and how Britannia is to rule forever, and the pint-pots suffer severe injuries from the energy with which they are pounded on the tables. There is no sign of slackening energy at the arsenals and the dockyards. Troops are being concentrated; all available steamers are being taken up for transport service; immense supplies and stores are being shipped; vessels-of-war are fitting out as fast as means will allow; business is at a stand-still, at least on the Stock Exchange, and business men are fluttering about, grasping at every straw which seems to show in what direction the current will finally turn.

Yet, in spite of all this apparent hostility and eagerness for a collision, I believe I am right in saying that *the ground-current is still toward peace.* This showed itself first in religious circles, whose political influ

ence must not be measured on the same narrow scale as at home. Notwithstanding all the fury that raged in the city last Sunday, there was hardly a pulpit whose occupant did not pray fervently for peace, and there were not a few among the dissenters who prayed with the same breath for the Queen and for the President. At one church only was there a war-sermon preached, and it is said that there the congregation coughed the preacher down, almost like a tiresome speaker in Parliament.

On Thursday, Exeter Hall was thrown open to a great prayer-meeting, and several thousand people joined in imploring God to avert the calamity of war. In spite of the folly of Lord SHAFTESBURY, and his strange blindness to the interests of the cause he has so zealously supported, the dissenters and the anti-Slavery people are still ready to do all they can to bring back a quieter condition of things.

The admirable caution of our Government in not committing itself to the blunder that so many of our leading men have fallen into, has also produced a good effect here. The Funds have recovered a portion of the ground lost last week. The feeling among business men, though very hesitating, is still at bottom *a belief that there will be no war.* Even the newspapers have become a shade more moderate, and the *Times*, with curious love for insulting every one, favors JEFFERSON DAVIS with a portion of that abuse which, till lately, it has reserved for Mr. SEWARD and the institutions of the North. Very little has escaped as to the intentions of the Ministry, but it is asserted and is probably true, that they have not yet decided as to the course to be taken in case their demand is are refused. War will be the result, beyond a doubt, but not, perhaps, a declaration of war. *Meanwhile the Tories have suddenly become very cautious, and are shaking their fingers at Lord Palmerston to tell him to take care; this is a grave matter, and there must be no needless trouble.* Numberless rumors and stories are flying about, all of which are probably false and not worth a repetition, though they produce more or less impression for the moment on Exchange.

Finally, there is one statement made which has excited great curiosity, and which I think may be considered to have more truth in it than would seem likely at first sight. This is no less than that *Her Majesty Queen Victoria looks with great aversion and dread at the prospect of war, and has earnestly endeavored to prevent it by every means in her power.* The story at first seems very questionable, but one must bear in mind that the Queen is a woman, kind-hearted, and not given to ambitious dreams of conquest, and that she probably remembers the terrible trials which she endured when her subjects were dying in the hospitals at Varna, and were starving of cold in the trenches before Sebastopol. There is, however, another reason, which may have even more weight with her than this. Her Uncle LEOPOLD is King of Belgium, and a man of very considerable influence in Europe, while over her he has always had more power than any other person. Belgium lies on the border of France, and would be the first victim in case France should attempt a renewal of her old revolutionary crusades. But the spirit of the French people toward England is well known, and there is little doubt that in case of a protracted war between America and England, there would be extreme danger of European complications, and perhaps a realization of the old dream of the French tricolor on the Rhine. Hence LEOPOLD is thought to be very anxious to prevent a war between England and America, and is reported to have offered to mediate between the two parties. Hence, too, Queen VICTORIA may feel it her duty to interpose every obstacle in her power to the commencement of hostilities.

What, then, will be the course of this country in case of a refusal on the part of America to give up the prisoners on any terms? From what I have said, it is clear that the Government will be very cautious about going to war. If it is supposed in America that such a refusal would lead to an immediate declaration, the idea is probably an error. The British Government cannot afford to take any step without great care, and without placing America in the wrong, where she will be, beyond a doubt, if she falsifies her glorious record, and tramples on the laurels of the fathers, by justifying the retention of those men. England will, in such a case, proceed to play with us as a cat does with a mouse. She will not declare war, but she will acknowledge the South, an act that will practically alone finish all hopes of a restoration of the Union. She will not attack New-York, but, after a decent pause, she will raise the blockade. Then, if America chooses to take the aggressive, and declare war, England will accept it as forced upon her, and America will have to look for sympathy where she can get it.

This is the policy which England will pursue in case she is permitted to do so. But another course lies directly before our Government, which will place the whole case on a different footing, and strange to say, this course is the one which the leaders of the Conservative Party seem now to have adopted. A very remarkable article has appeared in the *Press* of this week, a paper which is peculiarly the organ of one branch of the Conservatives. After remarking that the *Standard*, another Conservative organ, had officially stated that the views of the *Press* were of "complete" variance with those of the Conservative Party, the *Press* goes on to say:

"Since our statement has been challenged, we may now state, as a well-known fact, that *the opinion which we expressed last week that Her Majesty's Ministers have erred in narrowing the casus belli to a mere point of form, is the deliberate opinion of the most eminent lawyers of the Conservative Party*, and even of the Liberal Party also." The italics are its own.

The most eminent lawyer of the Conservative Party is none other than the famous Lord LYNDHURST—a man though of nearly ninety years, still preserving his old masculine energy of mind and clearness of vision, and still regarded by the Tories as perhaps their ablest adviser. The old man has no doubt the same contemptuous opinion of Lord PALMERSTON and Lord RUSSELL that he is said to entertain very generally of the foolish and perverse tendencies of human nature at large. Weakness has found no apologist in Lord LYNDHURST, nor is he now, in his extreme old age, any better inclined to look with mercy on the Whigs than when he was on the woolsack. It is natural enough that he should have seen in an instant the untenable ground on which the Whigs have placed themselves; and, no doubt, with his hot Tory feelings, he heard of the decision of the Ministry with a bitter sneer at their incompetence to rise to the height of the occasion. He knows the Whigs—how, with great principles continually on their lips, they always fail when the time comes for bold and honest action, and their greatest enterprises are blighted by their barrenness of productive energy. From his chamber he has sent out the dictum that they have made another of their usual blunders; and beyond a doubt the dictum is correct.

The path for Mr. SEWARD, therefore, is clear, if he chooses to walk it. *He has only to reassert the old principles of American history, and, while refusing to obey the mandate of this Government, to offer to yield at once to a request based on the American theory of neutral rights.* To this the Ministry would either have to yield—thus giving us the right—or they would have to reject it, and then the Tories and the Radicals would combine to end the Palmerstonian reign. In short, the Ministry have made a blunder, as they always do; and their fate rests in the hands of Mr. SEWARD.

All interest being now swallowed up in this subject, there remains little else to write about. A letter appeared in this morning's *Times* from Mr. THURLOW WEED, in which he attempts to soothe the excitement. The *Times*, of course, treats it with its usual bad manners and insulting comments, but luckily even the English, stupid and slow as they are, can read for themselves, and as they are not all brutes or blackguards, good words will have an effect in spite of the *Times*. Mr. WEED is now in London, I am told, and will remain as long as he is useful. If he can do any good, he has a wide enough field.

The latest and most alarming news is, that the Prince Consort is dangerously ill of gastric fever. All of a sudden the English seem on this news to be waking up to the enormous calamity his death would be. Prince ALBERT has been to England one man in many millions. His influence—all the more efficacious because it was unseen—has done more to contribute to the success of VICTORIA'S reign than that of any other person—far more than that of any such wretched imitation of a great man as Lord PALMERSTON. If Prince ALBERT had been an Englishman no honors would have been too great, no words of admiration too strong for his royal services. As a foreigner, he has been watched with jealous dislike, forced to hide himself and his influence from public sight; even laughed at, sneered at, and slighted, in spite of the Queen's wishes; and yet his own conduct has been beyond praise. I think there are few persons in America who won't be willing to give the Queen their warm sympathy in this anxious and painful season.

ATTITUDE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

From the London Star.

It is obvious, from the tone of the journals which are understood specially to reflect the views of Lord PALMERSTON, that *the head of Her Majesty's Government is in no conciliatory frame of mind.* These journals profess to mourn over the prospect of hostilities, yet labor with devilish cunning to stimulate the evil feeling which would render them inevitable. We do not pretend to fathom the motives of the policy towards which the Premier evidently leans. It may be that, despairing of riding over the approaching session with the small majority which he commands, he hopes, by fomenting a war spirit, to create an enthusiasm in his favor which may secure for him a prolonged enjoyment of the sweets of office. But whatever may be the springs of his action, *we say most emphatically that Lord Palmerston is not to be trusted in the present crisis.* There is but one means of averting the peril with which we are menaced by his crooked tactics and arrogant impetuosity. Let the nation give immediate and unmistakable indications of its firm resolution that, whatever may be the answer of the Federal Government to the dispatch of Earl RUSSELL, no action shall be taken upon it until after the assembling of Parliament. To declare war is, we are well aware, one of the prerogatives of the Crown. But, at such a moment, we cannot afford to stand upon technicalities. The consent of the people must be had before we are plunged into a war for which the people will have to pay in both blood and gold. There are some, no doubt, whose hearts are already throbbing with delight at the anticipation of a speedy commencement of hostilities. *Belligerent operations pour money into a great many greedy pockets, and open the path to rank and its accompanying emoluments to many longing aspirants.* But let the industrial classes—the productive workers in the national hive—ponder well upon the meaning, so far as they are concerned, of war with the Federal Union. It means the slaughter of some hundreds—it may be thousands—of the hardy sons of toil, whose blood must quench the blaze which diplomatists fan, and whose lives must purchase the triumphs which give statesmen fame. It means the cutting off the supply of corn—nearly three millions of quarters—which we receive annually from the United States; the stoppage, at any rate to a great extent, of our yearly export trade to that country, amounting to a value of twenty-two millions sterling, no small proportion of which represents the labor of the British artisan; and such a direct pressure upon the pockets of employers as must act upon their workmen, increasing the evils resulting from commercial and industrial stagnation. All this is equivalent to dear bread, slack work, and low wages. The productive classes must not only furnish the men to fight,—they must also pay the cost of the battle without receiving in exchange even the poor equivalent of glory. These are the truths upon which the bone and sinew of the nation should reflect, and let the fruits of their meditation become apparent in vigorous action. No matter what course events may take, there must be no declaration of war without the sanction of Parliament; and, meanwhile, those who have most at stake on the issue should give such loud utterance to their resolve that moderation and forbearance shall be carried to their utmost limits, that the representatives of the people cannot choose but listen and obey. If war, with all its waste of life, and treasure, be really inevitable, Englishmen will bravely resolve to bear the sacrifices which it will entail. But discussion must precede action, and the first blow must not be struck until all the resources of negotiation and arbitration have been drawn upon without avail. *There is a crafty purpose veiled beneath the arrogant declaration that hesitation to comply with all our demands must be followed by an instant rupture.* Let our countrymen awaken to a sense of the danger with which they are threatened by the artful devices of these apostles of carnage, and thwart their plot by that emphatic utterance of public opinion, which even the most hardened of wicked schemers dare not despise.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR NOT TO BE STOPPED BY THE SURRENDER OF SLIDELL AND MASON.

Correspondence of the Manchester Guardian.

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 13.

In the present state of the public mind, when war or peace is little more than a matter of conjecture, upon which, as we are all equally informed, one man's opinion is as good as another's, every straw indicating the direction of the great issue is eagerly watched. To-day comes the telegram announcing that a proposal for an arbitration is about being made by King LEOPOLD. In the minds of some this is associated with *a rumor prevalent during the last week that the Queen regards the possible contest with extreme discomfort; so much so that she had the dispatch to Lord Lyons, as originally framed, modified into a more pacific form.* The close friendship between Her Majesty and King LEOPOLD seems to give a kind of connecting link between the telegram of to-day and the rumor of the early part of the week. But I think it will turn out that as little attention ought to be paid to the one as to the other. In the first place, I do not think it likely that the Queen really made any modification in the dispatch; and, in the next place, *no suggestion of an arbitration could have emanated from any one in this country acquainted with the sentiments of the Government.* They regard it as a clear and well-defined case of a wrongful act done, which must be repaired by the restitution of the Confederate Envoys. No more is asked, and nothing less will be accepted. And, if my information be not erroneous, either MASON and SLIDELL or Lord LYONS will be in Liverpool by the 29th or 30th of this month. The Government has asked for no apology. No importance is attached to any apology that could be made by the Federal Government, and the issue is reduced to the simplest possible proportions—the prompt surrender of the gentlemen taken from the deck of the *Trent*.

The probabilities of war or peace, as I have said, are merely a matter of opinion; but *I think those whose views of public affairs are most valuable, from their position and experience, lean to war.* It is argued that every day the Confederate Commissioners are detained lessens the likelihood of their being given up. The Seward Cabinet has had time to look into the affair, as it was their bounden duty to do; and, if they felt they were wrong, they should have at once signified to Lord LYONS their readiness to repair the error into which their servant had fallen. It is expected that, with Mr. SEWARD'S views about England, it is hardly in human nature to suppose that he has not put a paragraph into the President's Message which will commit him to noncompliance with our demand. The incident of the *Harvey Birch* became known beyond the Atlantic just in time to revive the excitement which had begun to languish after the arrival of the *San Jacinto*. It is feared that all these things will turn the scale in favor of war.

When I say this result is feared, I use a word which is by no means applicable to a large number of our public men, who look beyond the affair of the moment. The conviction forces itself upon many that the day is not far distant when the Southern Confederation must be recognized; and that recognition may be expected to bring about fresh difficulty, in which we must be prepared to maintain our policy. It is with this view, and as a demonstration of our intention to hold our own way, that the Government are *sending out ten thousand men to Canada without any reference to the reply of the American Cabinet. If Messrs. Mason and Slidell landed at Liverpool to-morrow not a soldier the less would be sent out. If we are to have a war with the North, in connection with this United States schism, there could be no more favorable time than the present.* It would be a short and decisive war, and would have a vital influence on the preservation of peace and the uninterrupted freedom of commerce for many years to come, without our having to pass through the ordeal of social and mercantile confusion which wars, as a general rule, entail.

LETTER OF THURLOW WEED.

To the Editor of the London Times:

SIR: The intimation in yesterday's *Times* of "a yearning in this country after" American views upon the new complication of our relations with England, followed this morning by relaxing and even kindlier strictures, tempts me to submit briefly some thoughts which an occurrence profoundly embarrassing suggests; not, however, upon "international law," for, as an humble journalist, I have been accustomed only to the common-sense interpretations of public questions; and, were I at all qualified to enter into the legal argument, I should be inclined to accept your own view of the question—viz., that time and circumstances have so far changed the practice and reformed the principles of international maritime law as to render the earlier precedents and authorities largely inapplicable to existing cases; and, further, while the concession, in proving my candor may impeach my patriotism, I am constrained to admit that in the ventilation of the LAURENS seizure, as cited by Mr. GEORGE SUMNER, the bottom has fallen out of our strongest precedent.

Dismissing, therefore, the legal considerations of the *Trent* and *San Jacinto* question, I confess to a very strong "yearning" that the English Government, its Press and its people, may be disabused of an impression which has so generally obtained, that our Government seeks occasions for disagreement, or cherishes other than such feelings as belong to the relations of interest and amity that blend and bind us together. I am less surprised at the belligerent sensibility which the *Trent* affair has awakened here, than with the pervading antecedent impression, that our Government entertains hostile purposes towards England, and that our Secretary of State has actually designed the disruption of relations which I had supposed, and still believe, almost universally regarded as essential to the welfare of our country and the happiness of our people.

An alleged conversation of Secretary SEWARD with the Duke of Newcastle, referred to in the *Times*, conflict with these assurances. Without precise information as to the language used by Mr. SEWARD, I cannot be mistaken in assuming that its spirit was misapprehended. The conversation occurred, I believe, at a dinner given by Gov. MORGAN to the Prince of Wales. The avowal of a prominent Senator, who had reason to suppose that he might be called to a more responsible position in the Government, of a deliberate intention to "*insult your* (the Duke's) *Government*," could not but have been highly offensive. But while I can readily excuse an English nobleman for misinterpreting idle or "loose talk" in an American statesman, to all Americans the *badinage* of Mr. SEWARD would have been readily understood. Perhaps it would have been wiser not to attempt to "play with edged tools." Indeed, from the mischief an attempted pleasantry has occasioned, any departure from the gravities of conversation is certainly to be regretted. After disclaiming, as I feel quite authorized in doing, for Mr. SEWARD, unfriendly intentions and feelings toward England, I beg to refer such English gentlemen as have acquaintance with, or opportunities for consulting, Mr. ADAMS, our Resident Minister, for a true reflex of American sentiment and sympathies. That distinguished statesman, whose eminent father and grandfather at different epochs represented our country—first at the Court of St. James', and subsequently as President of the United States,—enjoys, in the best and broadest sense of the term, the confidence of his Government; and, resigning his seat in Congress to assume diplomatic responsibilities, he is also familiar with the views and feelings of our public men.

Until I saw the accusation against Secretary SEWARD standing out prominently in the London press, the idea had not entered my mind, nor can I now persuade myself that it has any real foundation to stand upon. After the settlement of the Maine and Vancouver boundary questions, in their final action upon both of which the course of the English Government was characterized by enlightened justice and wisdom, I had supposed that no cause of misunderstanding remained, and that we might look forward to a long period of exemption from conflict or dissention. Subsequently incidental occasions for interchanges of National courtesies occurred, calculated and tending to confirm and strengthen feelings of good-will. These were succeeded by that memorable visit of the Prince of Wales, whose advent among us afforded to the American people an opportunity to mark, in heartfelt ovations, both their regard for the future monarch of Great Britain, and their high estimate of, and their personal admiration for, a *Queen* whose eventful and illustrious reign, in advancing civilization, in promoting public and private virtue, and in hallowing household shrines, will enrich the archives and brighten the pages of England's history. I often thought, while witnessing, as I did, in several of our cities, the spontaneous demonstrations of unmistakable regard from hundreds of thousands of hearts, warmed by remembrances of SAXON descent, that if all England could be "there to see," we should thenceforth, as nations, dwell together in peace and friendship. In that triumphal journey, extending many thousand miles, through cities towns, villages, hamlets, and wilderness, nothing occurred to jar its enjoyment. The American people, though enthusiastic, were considerate and respectful. The Prince, either from intuitive or inherited good sense and taste, while observing all the proprieties of his position, was so naturally gracious as to win nothing but "golden opinions," and to leave everywhere agreeable and enduring impressions; and even now, so universal is the homage of our people for the Queen, that were Her Majesty to deign us a visit, Earl RUSSELL and Secretary SEWARD, were either or both of these eminent statemen disposed to penetrate a great national wrong, would find the bonds of affection stronger than ambition or strategy.

Upon the course which our Government shall deem wise or expedient in this abrupt emergency it is scarcely necessary to speculate. We shall not remain long in suspense. Nor could I add to the calm, well-considered views contained in the letter of Lieut.-Gen. SCOTT, in whom America has no more devoted patriot, nor England a more sincere friend. That distinguished and veteran General led our army creditably through one war with England. I, in humble positions, shared in that conflict; and I speak for both—enjoying the confidence and friendship of our great chieftain—in saying that neither cares to survive another struggle so revolting to all who rejoice in a common ancestry and commingled blood, with kindred memorials and associations.

Of the exact nature of the dispatch from the English Government I am ignorant; but *I am constrained to express the opinion that if that dispatch has taken the form of a peremptory demand it will be met by as peremptory a refusal;* for in temper and pride we are as unreasoning as the bad examples of our mother country, absurdly intensified, can make us. But I devoutly hope that the mastiff mode of diplomacy will not on either side be resorted to. There are no real interests of either country to be promoted or protected by a contest for the championship. Nor is it necessary to determine questions of relative prowess or courage. The battle of Lundy's Lane, in Canada, fought upon a fair field, with forces nearly equal, which consigned the remains of 700 British and 700 American soldiers to "dead men's beds," should be accepted as a satisfactory solution by both nations. This SLIDELL and MASON imbroglio, which has been sprung upon us, places both Governments in false positions. *England is running upon all fours across the track of her life-long practices and precepts, while America is forced, in maintaining the act of Com. Wilkes, to ignore a policy earnestly insisted upon*—a policy which, at the conclusion of the war of 1812, was left to be determined by the future good sense and forbearance of both Governments. In this "muddle," should either nation be too tenacious? *I do not say or think that in this matter we have done quite right, or that we are wholly wrong.* The temptations in this case were far greater than can be understood abroad. Messrs. SLIDELL and MASON were responsible leaders in the unnatural and senseless rebellion which set brother against brother in fierce and brutish civil war. As Senators in the Congress of the United States, while unanimous millions supposed men incapable of such perfidy, they committed acts of treason far more flagrant than the offences which have consigned the heads of British noblemen, through the Tower, to the block. It will require, therefore, calm deliberation and a large measure of forbearance in our Government and people to bring them to an acquiescence in the views taken of this question here—views which, I am compelled to admit, have obtained across the Channel.

But if events are not precipitated; if time is given for reflection, so that the cost and consequences of war may be calculated, my apprehensions would be greatly relieved. I quite concur with the New-York *Tribune* in the opinion that these rebel emissaries are not worth a war, and, individually, would not hesitate to make large concessions, in feeling, for peace. With England, whose calms whitens every ocean and sea, "catching the dawning rays of the rising, and mellowed by the departing beams of the setting, sun," the honor of her flag is everything. In defence of this flag England, with her blood heated, will not sacrifice the "avoirdupois of a hair." Surely, then, if appealed to in a neighborly spirit, we can afford to do for England what we should, touched in the same tender point, expect England to do for America.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

LONDON, Dec. 12. THURLOW WEED.

COMMENTS OF THE LONDON TIMES.

It is very seldom in the present polite and decorous age that we are able to accumulate so much evidence of a deliberate and long-cherished intention to do us an injury as we are able to bring against Mr. SEWARD, the present Prime Minister of the Northern States of America. During the visit of the Prince of Wales to the United States, Mr. SEWARD took advantage of an entertainment which was given to the Prince and his suite to tell the Duke of Newcastle that he was likely to occupy high office; that when he did so it would become his duty to insult England, and that he should insult her accordingly. A few months after this sally Mr. SEWARD found himself in the position he had anticipated, a quarrel between North and South was imminent, and the advice which Mr. SEWARD tendered to the hostile parties was to abandon their dispute, and combine their forces in a wholly unprovoked attack upon the British colony of Canada. The next step of Mr. SEWARD was to publish a circular, calling upon the States to fortify the sea and lake frontier—a circumstance which was understood by everybody to refer to Great Britain, and was, indeed, capable of no other construction. An English packet is then boarded by an American ship-of-war, four passengers are removed from the packet by violence, and placed at the disposal of the American Secretary of State. He orders them into strict confinement, without any diplomatic communication with the English Minister at Washington, and by so doing appears to adopt and ratify the action of the American commander. This is all we know at present of the feelings, intentions and proceedings of Mr. SEWARD. But it is quite enough to lead to a general persuasion that upon his ability to involve the United States in a war with England Mr. SEWARD has staked his official, and, most probably, his political existence, and that whatever may be the advantage to America of a war with this country to him it has become an article of the very first necessity. It is no business of ours to speculate on the motives or to enlarge upon the guilt of a man who has deliberately plotted, and, perhaps, by this time actually accomplished, this great crime, the greatest, perhaps, of which a human creature can be guilty,—the bringing war upon his country and upon us, who have never wilfully or intentionally done him or it any evil. The facts are as we have stated them.

An American gentleman, Mr. THURLOW WEED, now resident in this country in a *quasi* diplomatic capacity, thinks it necessary, under these circumstances, to come forward in defence of Mr. SEWARD, and certainly we must admit no one ever stood more in need of an able and discreet apologist. Whether Mr. SEWARD has found such a person in Mr. WEED, our readers will be better able to judge when they have read the letter with which he has favored us. For ourselves, we must confess we have arrived at the conclusion that *Mr. Weed has made the case of his client and his country considerably worse than he found it.*

Mr. WEED begins by an admission that the present quarrel is an occurrence profoundly embarrassing. Not at all to us, we beg to say, for we never remember an instance where the line of duty was clearer or better defined; but profoundly embarrassing to Mr. WEED, because he is very much inclined to think that we are right in our view of the law, and that "in the ventilation of the case of Mr. LAURENS the bottom has fallen out of the strongest precedent." Dropping, therefore, the legal question, Mr. WEED seeks to show that we are entirely in error in supposing that the American Government in general, and Mr. SEWARD in particular, is actuated by any ill-feeling toward us. That we should think so is to Mr. WEED even more wonderful than our "belligerent sensibility" with regard to the *Trent*. As for the conversation with the Duke of Newcastle, of which Mr. WEED says he knows nothing, he says it must have been a bad joke—that kind of agreeable badinage which passes after dinner between Dukes and embryo Secretaries of State. As to the chain of facts which connect this bad joke with what we fear will turn out to be a much worse earnest, Mr. WEED says nothing, but refers us to the present American Minister in London, Mr. ADAMS, as a true reflex of American sentiment toward England, the misfortune being that Mr. ADAMS, who has the good will, has not the power, and Mr. SEWARD, who has the power, has not the good will. Perhaps, thinking that something was yet wanting to the vindication of Mr. SEWARD, Mr. WEED proceeds to argue that he must be our friend, because, we having settled all our boundary disputes with the United States, there is nothing left to quarrel about. It would be exceedingly agreeable if Mr. WOOD could convince his countrymen of this fact, and he will excuse us if we do not find, in his admission that there is nothing left to quarrel about, any palliation of the conduct of Mr. SEWARD in fastening a quarrel upon us. The Queen has won the respect and the Prince of Wales the regard of the American people—good reasons why they should respect her Government, but certainly no extenuation of conduct which our correspondent admits to be, in his view, a violation of the Law of Nations. If the Queen would only pay America a visit, there would be no chance of a rupture. But then, the Queen most certainly will not pay America a visit, and we therefore derive but little comfort from this suggestion. After that indispensable appeal to our common ancestry which has hitherto availed us so little in dealing with our Transatlantic relatives, we come at last to the real point. Mr. WEED, who believes us to be in the right, and who has tantalized us with all this show of ardent affection, and who has proved so entirely to his satisfaction that the best feeling exists towards us in the American Government and people, informs us that if, relying on the right he admits and the affection he asserts, we demand that the persons who have been taken by violence from our protection be restored to us, we shall meet with a refusal. The affections of America may be lacerated, but once having begun to insult us, she will continue to do so. In his own pleasant, familiar way, Mr. WEED tells us that America is as unreasoning as the bad example of her mother country can make her. But if, instead of requiring as a preliminary to any further discussion the restoration of the captives, we are content to give the American people time for deliberation: if we are willing to forget that the discussion began by seizing the thing in dispute, and to recognize a debate commenced under such circumstances as having nothing in it either degrading or unusual; if, in fact, to use the expression current in America, we will enter into "protracted negotiations," there is reason to hope that America may yet relent, and condescend to the opinion that, after all, SLIDELL and MASON are not worth a war. We fear Mr. WEED in this is over-sanguine, and that, so long as America is allowed to retain what she has taken from us at the cheap price of an interminable correspondence, she will too keenly appreciate her own gain and our degradation to put an end to so agreeable an interlude.

But her forbearance will never be tried. We can, we think, convey to Mr. THURLOW WEED the sentiments of every Englishman on this painful subject. We do not ask from America courtesy or affection, respect for our Queen or regard for our Prince. These things are hers, to give or to withhold. We do not even ask that amount of fair treatment which we are in the habit of receiving from other nations. We have long ago made up our minds to dispense with that; but we do demand that she shall abstain from actual outrage, or that, if it is committed, she shall make reasonable reparation. *If she will do this, it is well; if not, the alternative will not come in the desired form of "protracted negotiation."*

BANQUET TO COMMANDER WILLIAMS, OF THE TRENT.

From the Western Morning News.

An interesting meeting was holden on Thursday evening at the Royal Western Yacht Club of England, at Millbay, Plymouth. Commander WILLIAMS, R. N., who was mail agent on board the royal mail steamer *Trent*, when she was stopped by the Federal war steamer *San Jacinto*, and Messrs. SLIDELL and MASON, the Confederate Commissioners, taken from her, is a member of the Royal Western Yacht Club. When it became known how ably he had acted on that trying occasion, some of his brother members thought it would be well to entertain the gallant officer at dinner at the Club, on his return to his home at Stoke, Devonport. No sooner was the suggestion made than it was adopted, and very soon quite as many names were entered for the dinner as the Club dining-room could accommodate. Commander WILLIAMS, having accepted the invitation, the dinner was fixed for Thursday. It took place in the Club dining-room, and was attended by about fifty gentlemen.

The Chairman, Mr. J. C. THIERENS, having proposed, amid enthusiastic cheers, the health of the guest of the evening, Commander WILLIAMS, who upon rising, was received with enthusiastic applause, which was again and again renewed, said: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, gentlemen and brother members of the Royal Western Yacht Club, it is not with the feelings of arrogance and presumption which Mr. FAIRFAX has thought proper to impute to me that I will now endeavor, as well as severe illness will permit me, to convey to your minds the deeply-seated gratitude that I feel, not only to the Chairman for the complimentary language, and too partial language, used by him, whom I have ever found for the last four or five years my kind and considerate friend, and also from the manner in which the mention of my name has been received by you—you, many of whom are true and tried friends of mine, and many whose faces I have never met before. Therefore I take it to be not so much a personal matter, but a national matter—[hear, hear]—that you have taken this opportunity of throwing around my shoulders the mantle of your approbation. [Renewed applause.] Gentlemen, if I fail to convey to you—if I fail to convey to you from the poverty of my language the throbbings that swell up from the well of my heart, I beg you believe that I am sincere in all that I shall say. [Bravo, and hear, hear.] This compliment was never looked for by me. ["We believe it, WILLIAMS."] I will endeavor to be as little egotistical as possible, but in the present instance it may be necessary that I should speak in some measure of myself, in consequence of what has been said about me in the New-York papers, and which has been referred to by *Punch*. The New-York papers have thought proper to allude to me in unwarranted language, and which I fear has been countenanced by Mr. FAIRFAX, or the proceedings which took place on board the *Trent*, and which, perhaps, you would like to hear from my own lips—["We should," and applause]—and the manner in which the *Trent* was boarded, I crave your indulgence to allow me to refer to notes. I am not a practiced speaker. I have never had to speak on any occasion like the present, and, therefore, I must crave your indulgence to allow me to refer to notes which I have this day made, from extracts taken from different papers, in order that I might not omit any portion of such evidence as I should wish to lay before you. I throw myself on your indulgence. [Hear, hear, and cheers.] I believe, at all events, that I have on my side truth and power. To convince you of that truth—I cannot give you the chapter and verse of the extracts that I am going to read to you, because I have neither had time, nor have I had the health, to put myself to the task of taking any notes of the particulars of the dates in such papers. [Hear, hear.] But I read in the Press the opinions of the Americans, I mean the Northern portion of the Union, the Federal States. In alluding to the attack on the *Trent*, it says: "If the act itself is justifiable, the manner in which it was performed is unexceptionable." ["Oh!" and derisive laughter.] As to the manner in which it was performed: I was, at the time Capt. MOIR came to me to say that a suspicious vessel was ahead, on the main deck, with a pipe in my mouth, reading the *Essays and Reviews*. I did not then think for one moment that such an atrocious thing would have been done as that which was enacted by the gallant officers of the *San Jacinto* to take as prisoners of war, contrary and in violation of international law, the so-style d Commissioners from the Confederate States. The argument that appeared or presented itself to my mind—the argument of the moment—as a flash of lightning, was that if a slave, a fugitive slave, once succeeds in putting his foot in a Free State—putting aside Great Britain—that that slave from that moment was free from his bondage. [Enthusiastic cheering.] The manner in which it is performed is "unexceptionable." Shortly after the *San Jacinto* was seen, a very few minutes after the vessel was descried, we hoisted our ensign. It was not responded to. As we approached the *San Jacinto*, a shot was fired across our bows. I appeal to you now—to you officers of the army and navy—is it usual for a neutral power, when wishing to speak with another vessel, to fire a shot across her bows to order her to heave to? [No, no; certainly not.] We proceeded slowly. We put her helm a starboard, and approached her. We were not half a cable's length from her; I would say she stopped—except that she had steerage way—when a shell was fired across her bows—[Shame]—and that is the way which it has been thought proper to style as unexceptionable. [Ironical laughter.] I make them a present of that. [Hear hear, and laughter.] Capt. WILKES says: "In the process of arrest he was glad to say everything was conducted properly, and nothing occurred which did not do honor to the American navy. [Oh! oh!] I will not dilate upon that. If they think that honor, let them hug it to their souls; but God forbid that Her Britannic Majesty's navy should hug as honor such an act to their souls. [Bravo, and repeated applause.] Now, gentlemen, I approach a subject with great diffidence, for it personally affects my honor, it personally affects my character. [Hear, hear.] Before I say one word regarding the notes which I have before me, I will tell you the manner in which Mr. FAIRFAX and I parted. [Hear.] Mr. FAIRFAX came to me on the main deck, hat in hand, and said, "Sir, I have a painful duty to perform, and if in the excitement of the moment I have said aught that by possibility"—I can't say this is word by word what he said, but it is the substance—[hear, and "That's all we want"]—"if I have said aught that by possibility can be construed into a personal offence or an insult towards you, I must humbly beg your pardon, Sir, for I never meant it." I replied, "Mr. FAIRFAX, I have had a painful scene to witness—a scene of degradation to my country's flag. [Hear, hear.] I do not deny that my feelings have been greatly excited, but if by any gesture I have done aught to offend you, as a man, there is my hand, Sir, and I crave your forgiveness." [Applause.] I ask you now, gentlemen, that Mr. FAIRFAX—I do not say that he has said so—but I say he has countenanced it in the American papers, he has countenanced the expression, "Gas-connader." [Loud cries, "Have they dared?" and shame, shame.] He, Mr. FAIRFAX, says "That my manner was so violent he was compelled to request Capt. MOIR to remove me from the deck"—[Oh! oh!]—and "that there was no union existing between Capt. MOIR and myself." Gentlemen, I utterly deny that there ever occurred one single instance of a want of unity between Capt. [illegible] and myself. ["That's a refutation."] [illegible] Graves, and this opportunity [illegible] testimony [illegible] Capt. MOIR [illegible] —[cheers]—[illegible] [illegible] Capt. MOIR [illegible] endear him to those with whom he is associated, it has ever been my lot to meet in this world. [Repeated cheers.] I confess that I have been advised to speak at no length on account of my health. But I cannot help it, let the consequences be what they may. [Hear, hear.] I must explain to you what has never yet appeared in the public papers. [Hear, hear.] It is said by the American papers—but I cannot put my hand on it now, though I have read it over and over again—it is said "that Capt. WILKES could not have received instructions from his Government at Washington, for that he was on his return from the Western Coast of Africa, wending his way through the Bahama Channel to New-York." What do you think? I do not know whether it has come before your notice at all; but what do you believe? How will you put trust in the veracity of such men who will write such things, when on the 16th of October I saw the *San Jacinto* off St. Thomas? I cannot remember now whether it was on the night of the 16th, or on the morning of the 17th. I went on my way to Mexico, going to Havana, Vera Cruz, Tampico. On my return to Havana, on the 6th of November, I found that the *San Jacinto* had been to Havana from St. Thomas, had coaled there, and that *two of her officers, passing themselves off as Southerners in their hearts, had lunched with Mr. SLIDELL and family, and extracted from them their intended movements.* [Sensation; "Hear, hear;" and, "That never came out before;" "Bravo."] I again say that I am going to approach a subject with great diffidence. I am going to speak of Mrs. SLIDELL and her daughters. [Hear, hear, and "Cheers for them."] I tell you, Sir, that Miss SLIDELL branded one of the officers to his face with his infamy, having been her father's guest not ten days before. ["Disgraceful," and "Bravo for Miss SLIDELL."] No words of mine shall pass my lips on a political point. I have no political feelings. I do as I am ordered. Mr. FAIRFAX denied that the marines made a rush toward Miss SLIDELL, at the charge, with fixed bayonets. *I believe when I lay my hand on my heart*—(suiting the action to the word) *and say, as I hope for mercy in the day of judgment, it is true that they did so.* [Hear, hear.] Miss SLIDELL—and no girl in this world has been pained more at the mention of her name in the public papers than she has been by the manner in which some persons have alluded to it; not pained by their having stated the manner in which she acted, [cheers] but some of the public papers described her as having slapped Mr. FAIRFAX'S face. [Cries of "Serve him right if she did," and "Bravo."] *She did strike Mr. Fairfax.* ["Loud cheers for her then."] *She did strike Mr. Fairfax—[cheers]—but she did not do it with the vulgarity of gesture which has been attributed to her.* Miss SLIDELL was with her father in the cabin, with her arm encircling his neck, and she wished to be taken to prison with her father. [Hear, hear.] Mr. FAIRFAX attempted to get into the cabin—I do not say forcibly, for I do not say a word against Mr. FAIRFAX, so far as his manner is concerned—he attempted to get her away by inducements. *In her agony, then, she did strike him in the face three times.* I wish that Miss SLIDELL'S little knuckles had struck me in the face. I should like to have the mark forever. [Oh! and laughter.] It has been argued in the public papers that if Capt. MOIR and I—I am not finding fault with the papers, I am finding fault with the letters which have appeared in the local papers; I am not finding fault with the feelings of the country, for the general voice of the country has thrown over me what you have done this night, as I said before, the mantle of your approbation, which is dear to me. [Applause.] It has been argued whether we should not have done our duty more clearly if we had refused a passage to these so-styled Commissioners from the Southern States. Now, on this point, I have a very strong opinion. I know that there are at this table members of the legal profession, but I am not going to offer any opinion of my own. I am going to offer to your notice a fact of which I am perfectly cognizant, and which occurred in the year 1832—either at the latter end of the year 1833, or the beginning of the year 1834. At that time Donna MARIA was on the throne of Portugal. In 1828 Don MIGUEL was expelled from that country, and yet a noted agent of Don MIGUEL applied to the Peninsular and Oriental Company for a passage to Lisbon in the Tagus steamer. The passage was refused. The agent prosecuted the Company. I do not mean to say that this is decidedly a point in support, but *à fortiori* it strengthens my argument. He prosecuted the Company for having refused him a passage, and after a long hearing the political agent was cast, but the only plea on which he was cast was the plea of the Company, that if they had not refused him they would have been refused admittance to the Tagus, and, consequently, have been subjected to a prosecution, collectively and individually, by passengers who had paid their money to be taken to Lisbon. *A fortiori* I say that it is a case in point. [Hear.] *It shows that Capt. Moir had no right or power whatever to refuse these so-styled Confederate Commissioners passage to England.* [Cheers.] Moreover, so far from any disunion between Capt. MOIR and myself, I should have had nothing to do officially with either accepting or refusing them as passengers. [Hear, hear.] But I should have offered my advice most strenuously to Capt. MOIR that he would have been subjected to a prosecution if he should refuse to take them. But I hold myself personally responsible for everything that was done. [Cheers.] If

THE TRENT DIFFICULTY ADJUSTED.

SURRENDER OF MASON AND SLIDELL.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE ON THE SUBJECT.

Dispatches from Lord John Russell, M. Thouvenel, Secretary Seward and Lord Lyons.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams—Extract.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, 1861.

Charles Francis Adams, Esq., &c., &c., &c.:

SIR: Your confidential note of Nov. 15, not marked as a dispatch, has been submitted to the President, and I hasten to reply to it in time for the Wednesday's mail.

No Minister ever spoke or acted more wisely in a crisis which excited deep public solicitude, than you did on the occasion of the Lord Mayor's dinner.

We are impressed very favorably by Lord PALMERSTON's conversation with you. You spoke the simple fact when you told him that the life of this insurrection is sustained by its hopes of recognition in Great Britain and in France. It would perish in ninety days if those hopes should cease. I have never, for a moment, believed that such a recognition could take place without producing immediately a war between the United States and all the recognizing Powers.

I have not supposed it possible that the British Government could fail to see this, and at the same time I have sincerely believed the British Government must, in its inmost heart, be as averse from such a war as I know this Government is.

I am sure that this Government has carefully avoided giving any cause of offence or irritation to Great Britain. But it has seemed to me that the British Government has been inattentive to the currents that seemed to be bringing the two countries into collision.

* * * * * * *

I infer from Lord PALMERSTON's remarks, that the British Government is now awake to the importance of averting possible conflict, and disposed to confer and act with earnestness to that end. If so we are disposed to meet them in the same spirit, as a nation chiefly of British lineage, sentiments, and sympathies, —a civilized and humane nation, a Christian people.

Since that conversation was held, Capt. WILKES, in the steamer *San Jacinto*, has boarded a British colonial steamer and taken from her deck two insurgents, who were proceeding to Europe on an errand of treason against their own country. This is a new incident, unknown to, and unforeseen, at least in its circumstances, by Lord PALMERSTON. It is to be met and disposed of by the two Gouernments, if possible, in the spirit to which I have adverted. Lord LYONS has prudently refrained from opening the subject to me, as he is, I presume, waiting instructions from home. We have done nothing on the subject, to anticipate the discussion; and we have not furnished you with any explanations. We adhere to that course now, because we think it more prudent that the ground taken by the British Government should be first made known to us here; and that the discussion, if there must be one, shall be had here. It is proper, however, that you should know one fact in the case, without indicating that we attach importance to it, namely, that in the capture of Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL on board a British vessel, Capt. WILKES, having acted without any instructions from the Government, the subject is, therefore, free from the embarrassment which might have resulted, if the act had been specially directed by us.

I trust that the British Government will consider the subject in a friendly temper, and it may expect the best disposition on the part of this Government.

Although this is a confidential note, I shall not object to your reading it to Earl RUSSELL and Lord PALMERSTON, if you deem it expedient.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

FOREIGN OFFICE, Nov. 30, 1861.

The Lord Lyons, K. C. B., &c., &c., &c.:

MY LORD: Intelligence of a very grave nature has reached Her Majesty's Government.

This intelligence was conveyed officially to the knowledge of the Admiralty by Commander WILLIAMS, agent for mails on board the contract steamer *Trent*.

It appears from the letter of Commander WILLIAMS, dated "Royal Mail contract packet *Trent*, at sea, Nov. 9," that the *Trent* left Havana on the 7th inst., with Her Majesty's Mails for England, having on board numerous passengers. Commander WILLIAMS states that, shortly after noon, on the 8th, a steamer having the appearance of a man-of-war, but not showing colors, was observed ahead. On nearing her at 1:15 P. M., she fired a round shot from her pivot gun across the *T.ent* and showed American colors. While the *Trent* was approaching her slowly, the American vessel discharged a shell across the bows of the *Trent*, exploding half a cable's length ahead of her. The *Trent* then stopped, and an officer with a large armed guard of marines boarded her. The officer demanded a list of the passengers, and compliance with this demand being refused, the officer said he had orders to arrest Messrs. MASON, SLIDELL, MCFARLAND and EUSTIS, and that he had sure information of their being passengers in the *Trent*. While some parley was going on upon this matter, Mr. SLIDELL stepped forward and told the American officer that the four persons he had named were then standing before him. The Commander of the *Trent* and Commander WILLIAMS protested against the act of taking by force, out of the *Trent*, these four passengers, then under the protection of the British flag. But the *San Jacinto* was at that time only two hundred yards from the *Trent*, her ship's company at quarters, her ports open and tompions out. Resistance was, therefore, out of the question, and the four gentlemen before named were forcibly taken out of the ship. A further demand was made, that the commander of the *Trent* should proceed on board the *San Jacinto*, but he said he would not go, unless forcibly compelled likewise, and this demand was not insisted upon. It thus appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from on board a British vessel, the ship of a neutral Power, while such vessel was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage—an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag and a violation of international law.

Her Majesty's Government having in mind the friendly relations which have long subsisted between Great Britain and the United States, are willing to believe that the United States naval officer who committed the aggression was not acting in compliance with any authority from his Government, or that if he conceived himself to be so authorized, he greatly misunderstood the instructions which he had received For the Government of the United States must be fully aware that the British Government could not allow such an affront to the National honor to pass without full reparation, and Her Majesty's Government are unwilling to believe that it could be the deliberate intention of the Government of the United States unnecessarily to force into discussion between the two Governments a question of so grave a character, and with regard to which the whole British nation would be sure to entertain such unanimity of feeling. Her Majesty's Government, therefore, trust that when this matter shall have been brought under the consideration of the Government of the United States, that Government will, of its own accord, offer to the British Government such redress as alone could satisfy the British Nation, namely: The liberation of the four gentlemen, and their delivery to your Lordship, in order that they may again be placed under British protection, and a suitable apology for the aggression which has been committed.

Should these terms not be offered by Mr. SEWARD you will propose them to him.

You are at liberty to read this dispatch to the Secretary of State, and if he shall desire it, you will give him a copy of it. I am, etc.,

RUSSELL.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 26, 1861.

The Right Honorable Lord Lyons, &c., &c., &c.:

MY LORD: Earl RUSSELL's dispatch of Nov. 30, a copy of which you have left with me, at my request, is of the following effect, namely: That a letter of Com. WILLIAMS, dated Royal Mail contract packet boat *Trent*, at sea, Nov. 9, states that that vessel left Havana on the 7th of November, with Her Majesty's mails, for England, having on board numerous passengers. Shortly after noon, on the 8th of November, the U. S. war steamer *San Jacinto*, Capt. WILKES, not showing colors, was observed ahead. That steamer, on being neared by the *Trent*, at 1¼ o'clock in the afternoon, fired a round shot from a pivot gun across her bows and showed American colors. While the *Trent* was approaching slowly toward the *San Jacinto*, she discharged a shell across the *Trent's* bows, which exploded at half a cable's length before her. The *Trent* then stopped, and an officer with a large armed guard of marines boarded her. The officer said he had orders to arrest Messrs. MASON, SLIDELL, MCFARLAND and EUSTIS, and had sure information that they were passengers in the *Trent*. While some parley was going on upon this matter, Mr. SLIDELL stepped forward and said to the American officer that the four persons he had named were standing before him. The Commander of the *Trent* and Commander WILLIAMS protested against the act of taking those four passengers out of the *Trent*, they then being under the protection of the British flag. But the *San Jacinto* was at this time only two hundred yards distant, her ship's company at quarters, her ports open, and tompions out, and so resistance was out of the question. The four persons, before named, were then forcibly taken out of the ship. A further demand was made that the commander of the *Trent* should proceed on board the *San Jacinto*, but he said he would not go unless forcibly compelled likewise, and this demand was not insisted upon. Upon this statement, Earl RUSSELL remarks that it thus appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from on board a British vessel, the ship of a neutral Power, while that vessel was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage—an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag, and a violation of International law.

Earl RUSSELL next says that Her Majesty's Government, bearing in mind the friendly relations which have long subsisted between Great Britain and the United States, are willing to believe that the naval officer who committed this aggression was not acting in compliance with any authority from his Government; or, that if he conceived himself to be so authorized, he greatly misunderstood the instructions which he had received.

Earl RUSSELL argues that the United States must be fully aware that the British Government could not allow such an affront to the national honor to pass without full reparation, and they are willing to believe that it could not be the deliberate intention of the Government of the United States unnecessarily to force into discussion between the two Governments a question of so grave a character, and with regard to which the whole British nation would be sure to entertain such unanimity of feeling.

Earl RUSSELL, resting upon the statement and the argument which I have thus recited, closes with saying that Her Majesty's Government trust that when this matter shall have been brought under the consideration of the Government of the United States, it will, of its own accord, offer to the British Government such redress as alone could satisfy the British nation, namely, the liberation of the four prisoners taken from the *Trent* and their delivery to your Lordship, in order that they may again be placed under British protection; and a suitable apology for the aggression which has been committed. Earl RUSSELL finally instructs you to propose those terms to me, if I should not first offer them on the part of this Government.

This dispatch has been submitted to the President.

The British Government has rightly conjectured, what it is now my duty to state, that Capt. WILKES, in conceiving and executing the proceeding in question, acted upon his own suggestions of duty, without any direction, or instruction, or even foreknowledge of it, on the part of this Government. No directions had been given to him, or any other naval officer, to arrest the four persons named, or any of them, on the *Trent*, or on any other British vessel, or on any other neutral vessel, at the place where it occurred or elsewhere.

The British Government will justly infer from these facts that the United States not only have had no purpose, but even no thought, of forcing into discussion the question which has arisen, or any other which could affect in any way the sensibilities of the British nation.

It is true that a round-shot was fired by the *San Jacinto*, from her pivot-gun, when the *Trent* was distantly approaching. But as the facts have been reported to this Government, the shot was, nevertheless, intentionally fired in a direction so obviously divergent from the course of the *Trent* as to be quite as harmless as a blank shot, while it should be regarded as a signal. So, also, we learn that the *Trent* was not approaching the *San Jacinto* slowly when the shell was fired across her bows, but, on the contrary, the *Trent* was, or seemed to be, moving under a full head of steam, as if with a purpose to pass the *San Jacinto*.

We are informed, also, that the boarding officer (Lieut. FAIRFAX) did not board the *Trent* with a large armed guard, but he left his marines in his boat when he entered the *Trent*. He stated his instructions from Capt. WILKES to search for the four persons named in a respectful and courteous, though decided manner, and he asked the Captain of the *Trent* to show his passenger list, which was refused. The Lieutenant, as we are informed, did not employ absolute force in transferring the passengers, but he used just so much as was necessary to satisfy the parties concerned that refusal or resistance would be unavailing.

So also we are informed that the Captain of the *Trent* was not at any time, or in any way, required to go on board the *San Jacinto*.

These modifications of the case, as presented by Commander WILLIAMS, are based upon our official reports.

I have now to remind your Lordship of some facts which doubtlessly were omitted by Earl RUSSELL, with the very proper and becoming motive of allowing them to be brought into the case, on the part of the United States, in the way most satisfactory to this Government. These facts are that, at the time the transaction occurred, an insurrection was existing in the United States, which this Government was engaged in suppressing by the employment of land and naval forces: that, in regard to this domestic strife the United States considered Great Britain as a friendly Power, while she had assumed for herself the attitude of a neutral; and that Spain was considered in the same light, and had assumed the same attitude as Great Britain.

It had been settled by correspondence that the United States and Great Britain mutually recognized, as applicable to this local strife, these two articles of the Declaration made by the Congress of Paris in 1856, namely: That the neutral or friendly flag should cover enemy's goods, not contraband of war, and that neutral goods, not contraband of war, are not liable to capture under an enemy's flag. These exceptions of contraband from seizure, were a negative acceptance, by the parties, of the rule hitherto everywhere recognized as a part of the law of nations, that whatever is contraband is liable to capture and confiscation in all cases.

JAMES M. MASON and E. J. MCFARLAND are citizens of the United States, and residents of Virginia. JOHN SLIDELL and GEORGE EUSTIS are citizens of the United States and residents of Louisiana. It was well known at Havana, when these parties embarked on the *Trent*, that JAMES M. MASON was proceeding to England in the affected character of a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, under a pretended commission from JEFFERSON DAVIS, who had assumed to be President of the insurrectionary party in the United States, and E. J. MCFARLAND was going with him in a like unreal character of Secretary of Legation to the pretended mission.

JOHN SLIDELL, in similar circumstances, was going to Paris as a pretended Minister to the Emperor of the French, and GEORGE EUSTIS was the chosen Secretary of Legation for that simulated mission.

The fact that these persons had assumed such characters has been since avowed by the same JEFFERSON DAVIS, in a pretended message to an unlawful and insurrectionary Congress. It was, as we think, rightly presumed that these Ministers bore pretended credentials and instructions, and such papers are, in the law, known as dispatches. We are informed by our Consul at Paris, that these dispatches, having escaped the search of the *Trent*, were actually conveyed and delivered to emissaries of the insurrection in England.

Although it is not essential, yet it is proper to state, as I do also upon information and belief, that the owner and agent, and all the officers of the *Trent*, including the Commander, WILLIAMS, had knowledge of the assumed characters and purposes of the persons before named when they embarked on that vessel.

Your Lordship will now perceive that the case before us, instead of presenting a merely flagrant act of violence on the part of Capt. WILKES, as might well be inferred from the incomplete statement of it that went up to the British Government, was undertaken as a simple legal and customary belligerent proceeding by Capt. WILKES, to arrest and capture a neutral vessel engaged in carrying contraband of war for the use and benefit of the insurgents.

The question before us is, whether this proceeding was authorized by, and conducted according to, the law of nations. It involves the following inquiries:

1. Were the persons named, and their supposed dispatches, contraband of war?

2. Might Capt. WILKES lawfully stop and search the *Trent* for these contraband persons and dispatches?

3. Did he exercise that right in a lawful and proper manner?

4. Having found the contraband persons on board, and in presumed possession of the contraband dispatches, had he a right to capture the persons?

5. Did he exercise that right of capture in the manner allowed and recognized by the law of nations?

If all these inquiries shall be resolved in the affirmative, the British Government will have no claim for reparation.

I address myself to the first inquiry, namely:

Were the four persons mentioned, and their supposed dispatches, contraband?

Maritime law so generally deals, as its professors say, *in rem*, that is, with property, and so seldom with persons, that it seems a straining of the term contraband to apply it to them. But persons, as well as property, may become contraband, since the word means, broadly, "contrary to proclamation, prohibited, illegal, unlawful." All writers and judges pronounce naval or military persons in the service of the enemy, contraband. VATTEL says: "War allows us to cut off from an enemy all his resources, and to hinder him from sending ministers to solicit assistance." And Sir WILLIAM SCOTT says: "You may stop the Ambassador of your enemy on his passage." Dispatches are not less clearly contraband, and the bearers or couriers who undertake to carry them fall under the same condemnation.

A subtlety might be raised whether pretended Ministers of an usurping Power, not recognized as legal by either the belligerent or the neutral, could be held to be contraband. But it would disappear on being subjected to what is the true test in all cases, namely: the spirit of the law. Sir WILLIAM SCOTT, speaking of Civil Magistrates, who were arrested and detained as contraband, says: "It appears to me, on principle, to be but reasonable that, when it is of sufficient importance to the enemy that such persons should be sent out on the public service, at the public expense, it should afford equal ground of forfeiture against the vessel that may be let out for a purpose so intimately connected with the hostile operations."

I trust that I have shown that the four persons who who were taken from the *Trent* by Captain WILKES, and their dispatches, were contraband of war.

The second inquiry is, whether Capt. WILKES had a right by the law of nations to detain and search the *Trent*.

The *Trent*, though she carried mails, was a contract, or merchant vessel—a common carrier for hire. Maritime law knows only three classes of vessels—vessels of war, revenue vessels and merchant vessels. The *Trent* falls within the latter class. Whatever disputes have existed concerning a right of visitation or search in time of peace, none, it is supposed, has existed in modern times about the rights of a belligerent in time of war to capture contraband in neutral or even friendly merchant vessels, and of the right of visitation and search, in order to determine whether they are neutral, and are documented as such according to the law of nations. I assume in the present case, what, as I read British authorities, is regarded by Great Britain herself as true maritime law, that the circumstance that the *Trent* was proceeding from a neutral port to another neutral port does not modify the rights of the belligerent captor.

The third question is, whether Capt. WILKES exercised the right of search in a lawful and proper manner. If any doubt hung over this point, as the case was presented in the statement of it adopted by the British Government, I think it must have already passed away before the modifications of that statement which I have already submitted.

I proceed to the fourth inquiry, namely: Having found the suspected contraband of war on board the *Trent*, had Capt. WILKES a right to capture the same? Such a capture is the chief, if not the only, recognized object of the permitted visitation and search. The principle of the law is, that the belligerent exposed to danger may prevent the contraband persons or things from applying themselves or being applied to the hostile uses or purposes designed. The law is so very liberal in this respect that when contraband is found on board a neutral vessel, not only is the contraband forfeited, but the vessel which is the vehicle of its passage or transportation being tainted also becomes contraband, and is subjected to capture and confiscation.

Only the fifth question remains, namely: Did Capt. WILKES exercise the right of capturing the contraband in conformity with the law of nations?

It is just here that the difficulties of the case begin. What is the manner which the law of nations prescribes for disposing of the contraband when you have found and seized it on board of the neutral vessel? The answer would be easily found if the question were, What shall you do with the contraband vessel? You must take or send her into a convenient port and subject her to a judicial prosecution there in Admiralty, which will try and decide the questions of belligerency, neutrality, contraband and capture. So, again, you would promptly find the same answer if the question were, What is the manner of proceeding prescribed by the law of nations in regard to the contraband, if it be property or things of material, or pecuniary value?

But the question here concerns the mode of procedure in regard, not to the vessel that was carrying the contraband, nor yet to contraband things which worked the forfeiture of the vessel, but to contraband persons.

The books of law are dumb. Yet the question is as important as it is difficult. First, the belligerent captor has a right to prevent the contraband officer, soldier, sailor, minister, messenger, or courier, from proceeding in his unlawful voyage, and reaching the destined scene of his injurious service. But, on the other hand, the person captured may be innocent, that is, he may not be contraband. He therefore has a right to a fair trial of the accusation against him. The neutral State that has taken him under its flag, is bound to protect him, if he is not contraband, and is therefore entitled to be satisfied upon that important question. The faith of that State is pledged to his safety, if innocent, as its justice is pledged to his surrender, if he is really contraband. Here are conflicting claims, involving personal liberty, life, honor, and duty. Here are conflicting national claims, involving welfare, safety, honor and empire. They require a tribunal and a trial. The captors and the captured are equals; the neutral and the belligerent State are equals.

While the law authorities were found silent, it was suggested at an early day by this Government that you should take the captured persons into a convenient port, and institute judicial proceedings, there to try the controversy. But only courts of Admiralty have jurisdiction in maritime cases, and these courts have formulas to try only claims to contraband chattels but none to try claims concerning contraband persons. The courts can entertain no proceedings and render no judgment in favor of or against the alleged contraband men.

It was replied, all this is true; but you can reach in those Courts a decision which will have the moral weight of a judicial one by a circuitous proceeding. Convey the suspected men, together with the suspected vessel, into port, and try there the question whether the vessel is contraband. You can prove it to be so by proving the suspected men to be contraband, and the Court must then determine the vessel to be contraband. If the men are not contraband the vessel will escape condemnation. Still there is no judgment for or against the captured persons. But it was assumed that there would result from the determination of the Court concerning the vessel a legal certainty concerning the character of the men.

This course of proceeding seemed open to many objections. It elevates the incidental inferior private interest into the proper place of the main paramount public one, and possibly it may make the fortunes, the safety or the existence of a nation depend on the accidents of a merely personal and pecuniary litigation. Moreover, when the judgment of the Prize Court upon the lawfulness of the capture of the vessel is rendered, it really concludes nothing, and binds neither the belligerent State nor the neutral upon the great question of the disposition to be made of the captured contraband persons. That question is still to be really determined, if at all, by diplomatic arrangement or by war.

One may well express his surprise when told that the law of nations has furnished no more reasonable, practical and perfect mode than this of determining questions of such grave import between sovereign Powers. The regret we may feel on the occasion is nevertheless modified by the reflection that the difficulty is not altogether anomalous. Similar and equal deficiencies are found in every system of municipal law, especially in the system which exists in the greater portions of Great Britain and the United States. The title to personal property can hardly ever be resolved by a court without resorting to the fiction that the claimant has lost, and the possessor has found it; and the title to real estate is disputed by real litigants, under the names of imaginary persons. It must be confessed, however, that while all aggrieved nations demand, and all impartial ones concede, the need of some form of judicial process in determining the characters of contraband persons, no other form than the illogical and circuitous one thus described exists, nor has any other yet been suggested Practically, therefore, the choice is between that judicial remedy, or no judicial remedy whatever.

If there be no judicial remedy, the result is that the question must be determined by the captor himself on the deck of the prize vessel. Very grave objections arise against such a course. The captor is armed, the neutral is unarmed. The captor is interested, prejudiced, and, perhaps, violent; the neutral, if truly neutral, is disinterested, subdued and helpless. The tribunal is irresponsible, while its judgment is carried into instant execution. The captured party is compelled to submit, though bound by no legal, moral, or treaty obligation to acquiesce. Reparation is distant and problematical, and depends at last on the justice, magnanimity, or weakness of the State in whose behalf and by whose authority the capture was made. Out of these disputes reprisals and wars necessarily arise, and these are so frequent and destructive that it may well be doubted whether this form of remedy is not a greater social evil than all that could follow if the belligerent right of search were universally renounced and abolished forever. But carry the case one step further. What if the State that has made the capture unreasonably refuse to hear the complaint of the neutral or to redress it? In that case, the very act of capture would be an act of war—of war begun without notice, and possibly entirely without provocation.

I think all unprejudiced minds will agree that, imperfect as the existing judicial remedy may be supposed to be, it would be, as a general practice, better to follow it than to adopt the summary one of leaving the decision with the captor, and relying upon diplomatic debates to review his decision. Practically it is a question of choice between Law, with its imperfections and delays, and War, with its evils and desolations.

Nor is it ever to be forgotten that neutrality, honestly and justly preserved, is always the harbinger of peace, and therefore is the common interest of nations, which is only saying that it is the interest of humanity itself.

At the same time, it is not to be denied that it may sometimes happen that the judicial remedy will become impossible—as by the shipwreck of the prize vessel, or other circumstances which excuse the captor from sending or taking her into port for confiscation. In such a case the right of the captor to the custody of the captured persons, and to dispose of them, if they are really contraband, so as to defeat their unlawful purposes, cannot reasonably be denied. What rule shall be applied in such a case? Clearly the captor ought to be required to show that the failure of the judicial remedy results from circumstances beyond his control, and without his fault. Otherwise he would be allowed to derive advantage from a wrongful act of his own.

In the present case Capt. WILKES, after capturing the contraband persons, and making prize of the *Trent* in what seems to us a perfectly lawful manner, instead of sending her into port, released her from the capture, and permitted her to proceed with her whole cargo upon her voyage. He thus effectually prevented the judicial examination which might otherwise have occurred. If now the capture of the contraband persons, and the capture of the contraband vessel, are to be regarded, not as two separable or distinct transactions under the law of nations, but as one transaction, one capture only, then it follows that the capture in this case was left unfinished or was abandoned. Whether the United States have a right to retain the chief public benefits of it, namely, the custody of the captured persons, on proving them to be contraband, will depend upon the preliminary question whether the leaving of the transaction unfinished was necessary, or whether it was unnecessary, and, therefore, voluntary. If it was necessary, Great Britain, as we suppose, must of course waive the defect, and the consequent failure of the judicial remedy. On the other hand, it is not seen how the United States can insist upon her waiver of that judicial remedy, if the defect of the capture resulted from an act of Capt. WILKES, which would be a fault on their own side.

Capt. WILKES has presented to this Government his reasons for releasing the *Trent*. "I forebore to seize her," he says, "in consequence of my being so reduced in officers and crew, and the derangement it would cause innocent persons, there being a large number of passengers who would have been put to great loss and inconvenience, as well as disappointment from the interruption it would have caused them in not being able to join the steamer from St. Thomas to Europe. I therefore concluded to sacrifice the interest of my officers and crew in the prize, and suffered her to proceed after the detention necessary to effect the transfer of those Commissioners, considering I had obtained the important end I had in view, and which affected the interest of our country and interrupted the action of that of the Confederates."

I shall consider, first, how these reasons ought to affect the action of this Government; and, secondly, how they ought to be expected to affect the action of Great Britain. The reasons are satisfactory to this Government so far as Capt. WILKES is concerned. It could not desire that the *San Jacinto*, her officers and crew, should be exposed to danger and loss by weakening their number to detach a prize crew to go on board the *Trent*. Still less could it disavow the humane motive of preventing inconveniences, losses and perhaps disasters, to the several hundred innocent passengers found on board the prize vessel. Nor could this Government perceive any ground for questioning the fact that these reasons, though apparently incongruous, did operate in the mind of Capt. WILKES, and determined him to release the *Trent*. Human actions generally proceed upon mingled and sometimes conflicting motives. He measured the sacrifices which this decision would cost. It manifestly, however, did not occur to him that beyond the sacrifice of the private interests (as he calls them) of his officers and crew, there might also possibly be a sacrifice even of the chief and public object of his capture, namely, the right of his Government to the custody and disposition of the captured persons. This Government cannot censure him for this oversight. It confesses that the whole subject came unforeseen upon the Government, as doubtless it did upon him. Its present convictions on the point in question, are the result of deliberate examination and deduction now made, and not of any impressions previously formed.

Nevertheless, the question now is, not whether Capt. WILKES is justified in what he did, but what is the present view of the Government as to the effect of what he has done. Assuming now, for argument's sake only, that the release of the *Trent*, if voluntary, involved a waiver of the claims of the Government to hold the captured persons, the United States could, in that case, have no hesitation in saying that the act which has thus already been approved by the Government, must be allowed to draw its legal consequence after it. It is of the very nature of a gift, or a charity, that the giver cannot, after the exercise of his benevolence is past, recall or modify its benefits.

We are thus brought directly to the question whether we are entitled to regard the release of the *Trent* as involuntary, or whether we are obliged to consider that it was voluntary. Clearly, the release would have been involuntary had it been made solely upon the first ground assigned for it by Capt. WILKES, namely, a want of a sufficient force to send the prize vessel into port for adjudication. It is not the duty of a captor to hazard his own vessel in order to secure a judicial examination to the captured party. No large prize crew, however, is legally necessary, for it is the duty of the captured party to acquiesce and go willingly before the tribunal to whose jurisdiction it appeals. If the captured party indicate purposes to employ means of resistance, which the captor cannot with probable safety to himself overcome, he may properly leave the vessel to go forward, and neither she nor the State she represents can ever afterward justly object that the captor deprived her of the judicial remedy to which she was entitled.

But the second reason assigned by Captain WILKES for releasing the *Trent* differs from the first. At best, therefore, it must be held that Captain WILKES, as he explains himself, acted from combined sentiments of prudence and generosity, and so that the release of the prize vessel was not strictly necessary or involuntary.

Secondly—How ought we to expect these explanations by Captain WILKES of his reasons for leaving the capture incomplete, to affect the action of the British Government. The observation upon this point which first occurs is, that Captain WILKES' explanations were not made to the authorities of the captured vessel. If made known to them, they might have approved and taken the release, upon the condition of waiving a judicial investigation of the whole transaction, or they might have refused to accept the release upon that condition.

But the case is one not with them, but with the British Government. If we claim that Great Britain ought not to insist that a judicial trial has been lost because we voluntarily released the offending vessel out of consideration for her innocent passengers, I do not see how she is to be bound to acquiesce in the decision which was thus made by us, without necessity on our part, and without knowledge of conditions or consent on her own. The question between Great Britain and ourselves, thus stated, would be a question, not of right and of law, but of favor to be conceded by her to us in return for favors shown by us to her, of the value of which favors on both sides we ourselves shall be the judge. Of course, the United States could have no thought of raising such a question in any case.

I trust I have shown, to the satisfaction of the British Government, by a very simple and natural statement of the facts, and analysis of the law applicable to them, that this Government has neither meditated, nor practiced, nor approved any deliberate wrong in the transaction to which they have called its attention; and, on the contrary, that what has happened has been simply an inadvertency, consisting in a departure, by the naval officer, free from any wrongful motive, from a rule uncertainly established, and probably, by the several parties concerned, either imperfectly understood, or entirely unknown. For this error, the British Government has a right to expect the same reparation that we, as an independent State, should expect from Great Britain or from any other friendly nation, in a similar case.

I have not been unaware that, in examining this question, I have fallen into an argument for what appears to be the British side of it against my own country. But I am relieved from all embarrassment on that subject. I had hardly fallen into that line of argument, when I discovered that I was really defending and maintaining, not an exclusively British interest, but an old, honored and cherished American cause, not upon British authorities, but upon principles that constitute a large portion of the distinctive policy by which the United States have developed the resources of a continent, and thus becoming a considerable maritime power, have won the respect and confidence of many nations. These principles were laid down for us in 1804, by JAMES MADISON, when Secretary of State in the Administration of THOMAS JEFFERSON, in instructions given to JAMES MONROE, our Minister to England. Although the case before him concerned a description of persons different from those who are incidently the subjects of the present discussion, the ground he assumed then was the same I now occupy, and the arguments by which he sustained himself upon it have been an inspiration to me in preparing this reply.

"Whenever," he says, "property found in a neutral vessel is supposed to be liable on any ground to capture and condemnation, the rule in all cases is that the question shall not be decided by the captor, but be carried before a legal tribunal, where a regular trial may be had, and where the captor himself is liable to damages for an abuse of his power. Can it be reasonable, then, or just, that a belligerent commander who is thus restricted, and thus responsible in a case of mere property, of trivial amount, shall be permitted, without recurring to any tribunal whatever, to examine the crew of a neutral vessel, to decide the important question of their respective allegiances, and to carry that decision into execution by forcing every individual he may choose into a service abhorrent to his feelings, cutting him off from his most tender connections, exposing his mind and his person to the most humiliating discipline, and his life itself to the greatest danger? Reason, justice and humanity unite in protesting against so extravagant a proceeding."

If I decide this case in favor of my own Government, I must disavow its most cherished principles, and reverse and forever abandon its essential policy. The country cannot afford the sacrifice. If I maintain those principles and adhere to that policy, I must surrender the case itself. It will be seen, therefore, that this Government could not deny the justice of the claim presented to us in this respect upon its merits. We are asked to do to the British nation just what we have always insisted all nations ought to do to us.

The claim of the British Government is not made in a discourteous manner. This Government, since its first organization, has never used more guarded language in a similar case.

In coming to my conclusion I have not forgotten that if the safety of this Union required the detention of the captured persons, it would be the right and duty of this Government to detain them. But the effectual check and waning proportions of the existing insurrection, as well as the comparative unimportance of the captured persons themselves, when dispassionately weighed, happily forbid me from resorting to that defence. Nor am I aware that American citizens are not in any case to be unnecessarily surrendered for any purpose into the keeping of a foreign State. Only the captured persons, however, or others who are interested in them, could justly raise a question on that ground.

Nor have I been tempted at all by suggestions that cases might be found in history where Great Britain refused to yield to other nations, and even to ourselves, claims like that which is now before us. Those cases occurred when Great Britain, as well as the United States, was the home of generations which with all their peculiar interests and passions, have passed away. She could in no other way so effectually disavow any such injury as we think she does now, by assuming as her own the ground upon which we then stood. It would tell little for our claims to the character of a just and magnanimous people if we should so far consent to be guided by the law of retaliation, as to lift up buried injuries from their graves to oppose against what national consistency and the national conscience compel us to regard as a claim intrinsically right.

Putting behind me all suggestions of this kind, I prefer to express my satisfaction that, by the adjustment of the present case upon principles confessedly American, and yet, as I trust, mutually satisfactory to both of the nations concerned, a question is finally and rightly settled between them, which heretofore exhausting not only all forms of peaceful discussion, but also the arbitrament of war itself, for more than half a century alienated the two countries from each other, and perplexed with fears and apprehensions all other nations.

The four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren, in the State of Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your Lordship will please indicate a time and place for receiving them.

I avail myself of this occasion to offer to your Lordship a renewed assurance of my very high consideration. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

M. Thouvenel to M. Mercier.

[TRANSLATION.]

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, PARIS, Dec. 3 1861.

SIR: The arrest of Messieurs MASON and SLIDELL, on board the English packet *Trent*, by an American cruiser, has produced in France, if not the same emotion as in England, at least extreme astonishment and sensation. Public sentiment was at once engrossed with the lawfulness and the consequence of such an act, and the impression which has resulted from this, has not been, for an instant, doubtful.

The fact has appeared so much out of accordance with the ordinary rules of International law, that it has chosen to throw the responsibility for it exclusively on the commander of the *San Jacinto*.

It is not yet given to us to know whether this supposition is well founded, and the Government of the Emperor has, therefore, also had to examine the question raised by the taking away of the two passengers from the *Trent*. The desire to contribute to prevent a conflict, perhaps imminent, between two Powers, for which it is animated by sentiments equally friendly, and the duty to uphold, for the purpose of placing the rights of its own flag under shelter from any attack, certain principles essential to the security of neutrals, have, after mature reflection, convinced it that it could not, under the circumstances, remain entirely silent.

If, to our deep regret, the Cabinet at Washington were disposed to approve of the conduct of the commander of the *San Jacinto*, it would be either by considering Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL as enemies, or as seeing in them nothing but rebels. In the one as in the other case, there would be a forgetfulness, extremely annoying, of principles upon which we have always found the United States in agreement with us.

By what title, in effect, would the American cruiser, in the first case, have arrested Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL? The United States have admitted with us, in the treaties concluded between the two countries, that the freedom of the flag extends itself over the persons found on board, should they be enemies of one of the two parties, unless the question is of military people actually in the service of the enemy. Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL were, therefore, by virtue of this principle, which we have never found any difficulty in causing to be inserted in our treaties of friendship and commerce, perfectly at liberty under the neutral flag of England. Doubtless it will not be pretended that they could be considered as contraband of war. That which constitutes contraband of war is not yet, it is true, exactly settled; the limitations are not absolutely the same for all the Powers; but, in what regulates to persons, the special stipulations which are found in the treaties concerning military people, define plainly the character of those who only can be seized upon by belligerents; but there is no need to demonstrate that Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL could not be assimilated to persons in that category. There remains, therefore, to invoke in explanation of their capture, only the pretext that they were the bearers of official dispatches from the enemy; but this is the moment to recall a circumstance which governs all this affair, and which renders the conduct of the American cruiser unjustifiable.

The *Trent* was not destined to a point belonging to one of the belligerents; she was carrying to a neutral country her cargo and her passengers, and moreover it was in a neutral port that they were taken. If it were admissible that, under such conditions, the neutral flag does not completely cover the persons and merchandise it carries, its immunity would be nothing more than an idle word. At any moment the commerce and the navigation of third Powers would have to suffer from their innocent and even their indirect relations with the one or the other of the belligerents. These last would no longer find themselves as having only the right to exact from the neutral entire impartiality, and to interdict all intermeddling on his part in acts of hostility; they would impose on his freedom of commerce and navigation restrictions which modern international law has refused to admit as legitimate, and we should, in a word, fall back upon vexatious practices, against which, in other epochs, no power has more earnestly protested than the United States. If the Cabinet of Washington would only look on the two persons arrested as rebels, whom it is always lawful to seize, the question, to place it on other ground, could not be solved, however, in a sense in favor of the commander of the *San Jacinto*. There would be, in such a case, misapprehension of the principle which makes a vessel a portion of the territory of the nation whose flag it bears, and violation of that immunity, which prohibits a foreign sovereign, by consequence, from the exercise of his jurisdiction. It certainly is not necessary to recall to mind, with what energy, under every circumstance, the Government of the United States has maintained this immunity, and the right of asylum which is the consequence of it.

Not wishing to enter upon a more deep discussion of the questions raised by the capture of Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL, I have said enough, I think, to settle the point that the Cabinet of Washington could not, without striking a blow at the principles which all neutral nations are alike interested in holding in respect, nor, without taking the attitude of contradiction of its own course up to this time, give its approbation to the proceedings of the commander of the *San Jacinto*. In this state of things, it evidently should not, according to our views, hesitate about the determination to be taken.

Lord LYONS is already instructed to present the demand for satisfaction which the English Cabinet is under the necessity of reducing to form, and which consists in the immediate release of the persons taken from on board the *Trent*, and in sending explanations which may take from this act its offensive character toward the British flag. The Federal Government will be inspired by a just and exalted feeling in deferring to these requests. One would search in vain to what end, for what interest, it would hazard to provoke, by a different attitude, a rupture with Great Britain.

For ourselves, we should see in that fact a deplorable complication in every respect, of the difficulties with which the Cabinet of Washington has already to struggle, and a precedent of a nature seriously to disquiet all the Powers which continue outside of the existing contest. We believe that we give evidence of loyal friendship for the Cabinet of Washington by not permitting it to remain in ignorance, in this condition of things, of our manner of regarding it. I request you, therefore, Sir, to seize the first occasion, of opening yourself frankly to Mr. SEWARD, and if he asks it, [illegible] him a copy of this dispatch.

Receive, Sir, the assurance of my high consideration.

THOUVENEL.

[illegible] Henri Mercier, Minister of the Emperor at Washington.

Mr. Seward to M. Mercier.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1861.

SIR: I have submitted to the President the copy you were so good as to give me, of a dispatch addressed to you on the 3d of December instant, concerning the recent proceedings of

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, MONDAY, DEC. 30, 1861.

THE NEW-YORK TIMES.

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Amusements this Evening.

WINTER GARDEN—LAKES OF KILLARNEY—PADDY'S BLUNDER—THE MAGIC JOKE.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE—LITTLE TOM—ROBINSON CRUSOE.

NIBLO'S GARDEN—HERRMANN'S SOIREES DE PRESTIDIGITATION.

WALLACK'S THEATRE—SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER.

HOPE CHAPEL—Capt. WILLIAMS' SOUTH SEA WHALING VOYAGE.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM—LIVING HIPPOPOTAMUS, LIVING WHALE, &c., AT ALL HOURS—DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES AT 3½ AND 7½ O'CLOCK.

THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD—No. 563 Broadway

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS—FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR—No. 548 Broadway.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE REBELLION.

The steam-transport *Empire City*, from Beaufort on the 24th, and Hilton Head on the 25th inst., arrived at this port yesterday morning. Her advices, which are four days later than were received by the *Baltic*, are interesting, and in some respects important. No demonstration of any kind had been made by the rebels against our troops, the stories to that effect in the rebel papers being pure inventions. On the other hand, our troops are making rapid advances into the State, making their positions secure as they go, and scouting-parties are daily pushed in every direction—one proceeding from Port Royal Island almost within sight of Savannah. A portion of the Seventy-ninth Regiment had made a reconnoissance fifteen miles from Beaufort, and taken six rebels prisoners. These reconnoissances and scouts had established the fact that the rebels are able to concentrate, in a short time, upon any given point, from fifteen to twenty thousand men. Another important gunboat reconnoissance had been made, which had been pushed within fifteen miles of Charleston, at a town called Rockwell. Here a force of four hundred rebels was found, which fled in a panic when an inferior force of our men was landed. The *Empire City* also brings later news from Tybee Island. The Union forces there are still engaged on the intrenchments. It is expected that a movement will soon be made in the direction of Savannah. The number of rebel troops at that place is put down at about two thousand. On the 23d inst. a boat containing a number of rebels came down the channel from Savannah, to sound the bar, it is supposed, for the British steamer *Fingal*, which is loaded with cotton, and waiting to run the blockade. The boat was chased ashore, and two of the crew captured. The *Empire City* brings home several of the officers of the stone fleet.

A dispatch from Palmyra, Mo., announces that Gen. PRENTISS, with 450 men, has encountered and dispersed 900 rebels at Mount Zion, in Boone County, killing and wounding 150 of them, and capturing 35 prisoners, 95 horses and 100 guns. The National loss was only three killed and 11 wounded.

Our dispatch from Fortress Monroe embodies a variety of rebel news from the South, some of which is more entertaining than true. There is one item, however, which is important, as it points to the probable evacuation of Bowling Green, Ky., by the rebel army under BUCKNER. It is stated that appearances do not indicate an engagement there, though unforeseen circumstances might precipitate a battle within eight or ten days. In other words, should Gen. BUELL reach there before the rebel army can retreat, a battle may be fought. The dispatches from Charleston and Savannah continue to recite wonderful stories of rebel achievements in the vicinity of Port Royal and Tybee, to disprove which it is only necessary to wait for advices from our own people. It is reported in Augusta that the British steamer *Gladiator* has succeeded in running the blockade, with a large quantity of arms, ammunition, &c.

We receive highly favorable reports of the condition of Gen. BUELL'S army on Green River. It is rapidly advancing in drill and the other necessities for active service condition. The building of a bridge over Green River is only a small part of the work that is going on. The artillerists are busy practicing, and the rawest of them are rapidly becoming proficient. The whole army is well clothed, well armed and well fed. The horses even, are well cared for, having plenty of forage, and being generally in good condition. The army will be able, after the construction of the Green River Bridge, to move forward to Bowling Green without waiting for the railroad to be rebuilt, and supplies can be wagoned from Green River to that point.

We this morning publish the diplomatic correspondence between the Governments of France and England on the one hand, and that of the United States on the other, concerning the question of international law, involved in the seizure of the rebel Commissioners. The first document is a note from Mr. SEWARD to Mr. ADAMS, in which the case is briefly mentioned, and in which Mr. SEWARD says that the action of Capt. WILKES was without any instructions from the Government, and he trusted that the British Government would consider the subject in a friendly temper. Then follows a note from Earl RUSSELL to Lord LYONS, dated Nov. 30, reciting the English version of the case—declaring that the act of Capt. WILKES was an affront to the British flag, and a violation of international law; and announcing that the "liberation of the four gentlemen named, and their delivery to your lordship," together with a suitable apology for the aggression, alone could satisfy the British nation. To this Mr. SEWARD responds in a paper, addressed to Lord LYONS, under date of the 26th inst., in which he analyzes at great length the principles of public law involved in the case, and arrives at the conclusion that the Government of the United States would be wrong in refusing to comply with the British demand, so far as relates to the disposition that shall be made of the persons captured. He closes by saying that the "four persons in question" will be cheerfully liberated; and your lordship will please indicate a time and place for receiving them." No "apology," however, is offered, because no offence was intended. To this Lord LYONS responds by announcing that he will forward the communication to Her Majesty's Government, and will immediately make arrangements to place the "four gentlemen" again "under the protection of the British flag." Beside these documents on the *Trent* case, there is a dispatch from M. THOUVENEL, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, to M. MERCIER, the "Minister of the Empeior at Washington," in which THOUVENEL pronounces the conduct of the American cruiser unjustifiable but hopes for a pacific solution of the difficulty. To this Mr. SEWARD responds in a note to M. MERCIER, in which he corrects an error of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, refers him to his correspondence with the British Government, and exchanges assurances of friendship. The whole correspondence will doubtless be universally perused.

By the steamship *Karnak*, which arrived at this port Saturday evening, we have advices from Nassau, N. P., to the 23d inst., at which time the rebel steamers *Isabel* and *Gordon* were in port, closely watched by the United States steamer *Flambeau*. This is corroborative of the intelligence recently received from Key West, which also stated that the *Sumter* was blockaded in the harbor of Cienfuegos by the *Iroquois*. The British steamer *Gladiator* was in the harbor of Nassau, and was expected to leave soon for England.

The steamer *Constitution* will probably sail from Boston to-day with the rest of Gen. BUTLER'S division. She carries large quantities of provisions and other supplies.

FROM EUROPE.

The mails of the steamship *Niagara* reached this City yesterday morning—two days later than those by the *Nova Scotian*. An extended summary of her news has already been published, but we give elsewhere correspondence and extracts of interest touching the affair of the *Trent*. The tone of the British Press and people continues much the same—with a rather more decided leaning toward peace. It was understood that Her Majesty, Queen VICTORIA, was much averse to a war with the United States, and even went so far as to have the first dispatch to Lord LYONS, as originally framed, modified into a more pacific form. Among our extracts will be found the letter of THURLOW WEED to the London *Times*, together with the ill-natured comments of that paper, and the speech of Commander WILLIAMS, of the *Trent*, detailing the part taken by him on the occasion of the seizure of MASON and SLIDELL.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Board of Aldermen, Saturday evening, appropriated $500 each, to the Presidents of the Aldermen and Councilmen, for services as Health Commissioners. An appropriation passed to provide a drill-room for the new Thirty-seventh Regiment, State Militia. JAMES F. MURRAY, was reimbursed $113 for damage done to his house by a mob, on the night of election. The sum of $250 was granted the reader for extra services. The Board concurred in the Railroad bill of the Councilmen. The Board of Councilmen held a regular meeting and rushed through a series of resolutions, confirming the grant, as conveyed in the "Gridiron" Railroad bill. It was violently opposed by Messrs. KEECH, LENT, ORTON and PINCKNEY, but as all proposed amendments were voted down by a distinct vote, the opponents were forced to yield, and the measure was finally adopted—Ayes 13, Noes 10. An injunction having been served on some of the members, in the matter of the purchase of the "Fort Gansevoort" property, it was referred to the Corporation Counsel, with a request to report at the next meeting. The NEW YORK TIMES and *World* were made Corporation papers.

The neat edifice just completed for the St. John's Independent Methodist Church, was dedicated yesterday, with appropriate exercises. The building is located in Forty-first-street, near the corner of Sixth-avenue. It is plainly built, of brick, and cost $17,000. Prof. HIRAM MATTISON is Pastor.

The prize sloop *Havelock*, captured off Cape Romaine, S. C., by the sloop-of-war *Jamestown*, arrived at Philadelphia on Friday, in charge of prize-master Midshipman TYSON. The *Havelock*, which was from Matanzas, is loaded with coffee and cigars chiefly. Her papers have been placed in the hands of Prize-Commissioner FLANDERS.

Capt. JOHN DE CAMP, of Morristown, N. J., left in the *Quaker City* last week to supersede Capt. PALMER, (now in command of the *Iroquois*,) and see if he can catch the *Sumter*.

Capt. BELCHER'S Rhode Island battery, six guns, 156 men, which has been at Alexandria for the past ten weeks, arrived at Annapolis, by a special train from Washington, on the evening of the 24th, and will go with the Burnside expedition.

Recruiting for Commodore D. D. PORTER'S mortar fleet is energetically prosecuted in the Eastern States. Every man will be paid two month's advance and permitted to leave an allotment to his family, commencing from the date of enlistment.

Col. WINDHAM, the English rifleman, who distinguished himself during the Italian war, under GARIBALDI, and who served in the Sardinian army for six years, having offered his services to the United States Government, has been appointed to a position in the Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiment.

A letter from a member of the Thirteenth Regiment, who was sent to Tortugas last September among the mutineers, states that he and his fellows have been released from arrest, and are awaiting the arrival of a steamer to take them to Washington, where they are to rejoin their respective regiments.

The General Term of the Supreme Court have rendered their decision in the case of MCCOTTER against the City, often reported in the TIMES, reversing the plaintiff's judgment for $138,309 25, and ordering a new trial. It will be remembered that the action was brought to compel the City to consummate the purchase of certain lands on Ward's Island. A number of criminal cases were also disposed of by the same Court.

Judge HILTON, at Special Term of the Common Pleas, has issued an injunction, returnable on the 31st inst., restraining the ratification of a resolution of the Board of Aldermen, respecting the purchase of the Fort Gansevoort property of JAMES B. TAYLOR, by the City.

The Stock market closed buoyant in demand and firm in prices on Saturday on the settlement of the *Trent* affair. New-York Cental 78¾; Exchange 110½. Money active at 7 ₩ cent. The Banks, it will be seen, after a protracted meeting on Saturday night, resolved to suspend specie payments immediately.

The action of the Government in releasing Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL was very favorably spoken of by business men on Saturday. Breadstuffs attracted more attention from shippers, and prices of desirable lots were firmer. Cotton was steady but inactive. Groceries were quiet, operations having been checked by the discussion of the recent order of Secretary CHASE, instructing the Customs authorities to levy the advanced duties, not only upon all arrivals subsequent to the enactment of the law of the 25th inst., but also upon all merchandise now in bond, entered under the previous tariff act. Merchants contend that this order is unjustifiable by law or precedent, and that it cannot be executed. Pork was inactive, while a lively business was reported in Bacon, Lard, and tierce Beef; also in Tallow, Hay and Whisky—the latter at firmer rates. Resin was in fair request and Common was dearer. Freights were not active, but rates were generally well supported. The movements in other branches of trade were restricted.

A DISAPPOINTMENT.—The Southern rebels have been anxiously speculating on the *Trent* affair. They have counted upon war as certain to grow out of it—because, as one of their organs states, LINCOLN would be mobbed in the streets by the Abolitionists, if he were to surrender MASON and SLIDELL. They will probably find out their mistake in due time. They will be taken somewhat by surprise to see the universal rejoicing which will follow the settlement of this dispute. Even "the Abolitionists," whom they suppose to control everything now-a-days, and to care for nothing but the negroes, rejoice even more heartily than the rest of the community over the result.

Our Southern friends may as well understand that the paramount purpose of the whole people at the North is to *crush the rebellion*—and they do not intend to be diverted from that purpose by any "side issue," which anybody may thrust into the controversy. A war with England, just now, would give the South all they want:—and for that reason, if there were no other, neither the Government nor the people have the slightest intention of indulging themselves in any such luxury. The rebels must reconcile themselves to their disappointment as they best can.

Settlement of the Trent Affair—The Rights of Neutral Nations.

A portion of our people will be disappointed at the result arrived at by our Government, in the affair of the *Trent*. But that feeling will have no deeper basis than a temporary and impulsive chagrin, that two such rebels as MASON and SLIDELL should have slipped through our fingers, in consequence of the interposition of the English Government on their behalf. And even this feeling will promptly yield to the profound satisfaction of the whole country, that we have honorably escaped the fearful perils of a war with England, which, whatever might have been its ultimate issue, would have given a certain triumph to the Southern rebellion. The *real* disappointment at the pacific settlement of this question will be felt in the dominions of JEFF. DAVIS. The rebels had taken fresh heart and hope, as well they might, at the prospect of having the whole military and naval power of Great Britain thrown into the scale on their behalf. The sudden destruction of that hope will fall upon them like a thunderbolt. It will do more to dishearten and paralyze their efforts than any other event, short of an overwhelming defeat at the hands of the Union forces.

There is another aspect of this question from which the public mind has been diverted by the exultation caused by the capture of the rebel agents: we refer to its bearings upon the great question of *neutral rights*, and upon the position which the United States have always held upon that subject. Mr. SEWARD'S masterly dispatch demonstrates very clearly that, while we might have justified the act of Capt. WILKES by British precedents, it would have been at the expense of the great principles of maritime law to which the United States have always adhered, and to which they would long since have secured the assent of the whole world, but for the opposition of Great Britain. Those principles are worth to us a thousand-fold more than the persons of MASON and SLIDELL, and the *quasi* concurrence in them of the English Government is cheaply purchased by compliance with a demand involving neither the slightest sacrifice of national dignity, nor the least departure from our uniform practice on this subject.

The United States have always claimed for neutral commerce the largest possible freedom on the high seas. This always has been, and always will be for us a matter of the first necessity,—as our position renders it certain that neutrality will always be our natural and general attitude. During the long wars between England and France, we had the carrying trade of nearly the whole world. We insisted, then, as we have insisted ever since, that neutral vessels should be entirely free from interruption or challenge on the high seas,—that *the neutral flag should cover whatever and whoever was sailing under it*,—and that no foreign Power should violate its sanctity or question the validity of its protection. Great Britain always denied this claim. She had a powerful navy, and it was for her interest to extend its prerogatives as much as possible. Her cruisers accordingly claimed the right to exclude neutral commerce from the ports of her enemy,—to stop neutral vessels on the high seas and take from them things which their Commanders might deem to be contraband, and persons whom they might deem to be British subjects. We denied this right,—appealed to all the nations of Europe against it,—protested against its exercise, and finally went to war with England because she would not concede the rights of neutral commerce, nor grant neutral vessels that immunity on the high seas to which, in our judgment, they were entitled.

President MADISON, in the Confidential Message which he sent to Congress June 1, 1812, recommending war, thus clearly states one of the acts of hostility which Great Britain had practiced toward us:

"Without going back beyond the renewal in 1803 of the war in which Great Britain is engaged, and omitting unrepaired wrongs of inferior magnitude, the conduct of her Government presents a series of acts hostile to the United States as an independent and neutral nation.

British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations, and seizing and carrying off persons sailing under it—not in the exercise of a belligerent right founded on the law of nations against an enemy, but of a municipal prerogative over British subjects. British jurisdiction is thus extended to neutral vessels in a situation where no laws can operate but the law of nations and the laws of the country to which the vessels belong, and a *self-redress is assumed which*, if British subjects were wrongfully detained and alone concerned, *is a substitution of force for a resort to the responsible sovereign which falls within the definition of war*. Could the seizure of British subjects, in such cases, be regarded as within the exercise of a belligerent right, *the acknowledged laws of war, which forbid an article of captured property to be adjudged without a regular investigation before a competent tribunal, would imperiously demand the fairest trial where the sacred rights of persons were at issue*. In place of such a trial, *these rights are subjected to the will of every petty commander*."

This complaint, urged by us against the English then, is almost precisely the same as they urge against us now. We might have fully justified our own conduct by quoting their example,—their declarations of principle and their uniform practice;—but we have never made *British* precedents our rule of conduct in such cases. We have never accepted her definition of the rights of neutrals. Nor could we have done it in this case without surrendering substantially the ground we have held for more than half a century, and conceding a principle which we fought against through the War of 1812. A change in circumstances has produced a marked change in the position of Great Britain. She was a belligerent in 1812, and asserted the extreme rights of a belligerent against us as neutrals. *She* is a neutral now, and claims from us as belligerents the full benefit of the principles of neutrality which we then maintained.

It is clearly for our interest to concede them. Indeed, nothing but a momentary forgetfulness of our remoter and more permanent stake in this great question of neutral rights, could have betrayed us into even a temporary assent to the old assertions of the English Government upon this subject. The time may again come when the leading Powers of Europe will be at war,—and when we shall again require and claim the immunities due to neutral commerce. We shall then reap the full advantage of the principles we have always asserted, and which our Government has not surrendered even under the extreme temptation held out to them in the recent affair of the *Trent*.

Suspension of Specie Payments by the Banks.

A Committee representing the Banks of this City met on Saturday evening, and after a prolonged sitting, determined to suspend specie payment, to take effect to-day. It was voted to make a further payments of $3,500,000 on the last $50,000,000 loan, for the purpose of enabling the Secretary of the Treasury to meet his January interest, and to pay a requisition in favor of the State of New-York, for advances made the National Government. The associate Banks of Philadelphia and Boston have undoubtedly taken a similar step, which will be followed by all the Banks of the country.

It has for some time past been seen that the step now taken was inevitable. It should unquestionably have been anticipated some weeks ago. It was postponed, probably, only for the reason that it could hardly have been justified to the public till a serious inroad had been made upon the specie reserves held by the Banks. Up to the present time the money with which the war has been carried on has been furnished by the Cities of New-York, Boston and Philadelphia. The country supplied the men and filled the commissariat. But the balance of indebtedness, when matters are in a normal condition, is always in favor of the cities. The money advanced by these immediately returned to them, till such balance turned in favor of the country, which was the case before the second $50,000,000 was fully paid. All the advance on the third $50,000,000 was drawn in specie, and distributed throughout the country to parties who, by the extraordinary state of affairs, were creditors of—not debtors to—the great centers of trade. For the banks, consequently, to go on with their payments would be to part with their last dollar in coin—a result which was for the interest of Government as well as the public to avoid. It is not a function of a bank to convert any considerable portion of its capital into Government bonds, however valuable these may be. It is created to lend money; and, as a part of the machinery of business, should always hold its capital in the shape of money. The banks did well to stop their advances to Government while they had a sufficient amount of capital remaining to extend every needful accommodation to the business public.

A suspension was inevitable, because the flow of money was all in one direction—from the cities to the country. A well-devised system of taxation would have corrected this. Had it existed, it would, very probably, have left the specie in the vaults of the Banks, in effect undisturbed. So far the expenses of the war have been almost solely met by borrowing. The ordinary revenues of Government had fallen off nearly two-thirds their usual amounts. The tax bills passed at the extra session of Congress were not to take effect within the current year. These will soon cause a return flow from the extremes to the centres. To these bills we presume Congress will immediately add others, increasing at the same time the rates already imposed, so that the internal taxes will produce, say $150,000,000 or $200,000,000. The levying and collection of such taxes will tend to restore the exchanges of the country to their normal condition, and will, at the same time become the basis for the circulation of *Treasury* notes to an equal amount, and in which Government dues will be made payable. In this way the whole strength of the country can be immediately utilized, and ample means placed in the hands of Government for its present necessities, while the adoption of a sound system of finance will give such a credit to its bonds as will enable it to realize from the sale of these what cannot be raised by direct taxation, to meet a present emergency.

There is no doubt whatever that the steps taken by the Banks will be regarded as a measure of relief both to the Government and the public. It has absolved both the former and the Banks from a standard which neither could maintain, while it will lead to measures by which the capital of the country can be more effectually reached, at the same time relieving the business-man of all apprehension as to the future. We can be mainly indifferent as to the effect of the measure abroad. As the balance of exchanges is largely in our favor, foreigners must continue to add to our stocks of specie, instead of drawing upon them. Specie is not likely to be really any less abundant after, than before suspension. There is at the lowest estimate $250,000,000 in the loyal States—probably a much larger sum. We doubt whether gold, to-morrow, will command a premium, even if wanted for shipment abroad. There is enough in the country for every commercial want that can arise. Suspension resulted not from a scarcity of it, but from a disturbance in the internal exchanges for the want of a law to make the burdens of the war uniform upon all parts of the country. This evil, which will undoubtedly be speedily corrected, will return to the banks all the specie they have parted with, and cause it to move throughout the country in harmony with the ordinary laws of trade.

The New Duties on Tea, Coffee and Sugar.

The construction put by the Secretary of the Treasury upon the recent act of Congress, increasing the duties in the above-named articles,—that the same applies to such as are in *bond*, as well as to importations hereafter made, appears to be clearly erroneous, and is working great inconvenience and harm to persons having stocks on hand. The law is not, and was not intended to be retroactive in its effect. Such is the declaration of its framers. It is never the policy of any Government to make such laws applicable to merchandise already imported.

In a few days after a cargo of tea or coffee may arrive, it may be all sold by sample, and the ownership of it change, while remaining in the warehouse. For Government, pending such change of title or ownership, to levy a heavy tax, is clearly unjust and oppressive, and may prove ruinous to parties engaged. The law passed at the extra session specially exempted all merchandise afloat at the date of its passage, so as not to interfere with existing contracts. The English Government is always much more careful than our own to have all important changes in its revenue laws take effect prospectively, and so far ahead as to give ample time for the public to adapt themselves to the change.

The order of the Secretary, we understand, applies not only to all merchandise in warehouse, but to that upon which the duty previously levied had been paid, where the goods had not been withdrawn from warehouse. Some parties to whom the order applies have large contracts with Government, which cannot be fulfilled on account of the delay which the order renders necessary. It is putting others to great inconvenience, as we understand that Government is not yet prepared to receive promptly the additional duty where the previous one had been paid. We trust Mr. CHASE will give immediate attention to this matter, and not subject our merchants, who have so generously sustained the Government, to burdens not even warranted by law, and what can ill be borne by a community, one-half of whose foreign trade has fallen off within a few months. New-York has done more than any other section for the support of Government, and has up to this time been most poorly requited.

The Effect Abroad.

In spite of the seriousness of the subject there will be something ludicrous connected with the effect which Mr. SEWARD'S dispatch may be expected to have in England. It will prick very thoroughly the enormous bubble which John Bull has been blowing so vigorously for the last few weeks. It will dissipate utterly, and we hope forever, the notion which seems to hold complete possession of the English mind, that Mr. SEWARD is determined to have a war with Great Britain.

The London *Times*, in its ill-natured and coarse reply to Mr. WEED, gives us the whole British argument on this subject. It runs thus: Mr. SEWARD told the Duke of Newcastle that he should hold some high office some day, and that then he should *insult* Great Britain. Mr. SEWARD *does* hold high office now, and Great Britain has been insulted. Therefore Mr. SEWARD has fulfilled his threat, and intends that it shall be followed by war. The *Times* has learned before this time, doubtless, what Mr. SEWARD wrote to Mr. ADAMS on the 30th of November, the very day on which Earl RUSSELL wrote his dispatch—that Capt. WILKES seized the *Trent* without the knowledge of our Government—that the President was not committed to any approval of the act, and that we only awaited communications from England to discuss it in a friendly spirit. And it will soon learn that our Government not only had the disposition to do justice in the matter, but that it also had the power.

Mr. RUSSELL, the *Times* correspondent, must be not a little astonished to see that his predictions have not been fulfilled. MASON and SLIDELL have been surrendered, and yet the Government is not "dissolved." The "mob" have not yet stormed the White House. President LINCOLN has not been lynched, and Mr. SEWARD'S sleep continues undisturbed. Our British cousins may possibly begin to realize that we are not all mad men nor fanatics on this side the water—that our Government is not wholly in the hands of a "ferocious mob"—and that we are not hungering and thirsting for a war with England. And we hope the conviction may beget in the English people a willingness to judge us more fairly, and treat us with greater justice, than we have recently experienced at their hands. It will be *their* fault if the peaceful relations of the two countries are disturbed within the next fifty years.

AFFAIRS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—The facts given in the letters received yesterday from our correspondents in South Carolina indicate a terrible condition of affairs in that wretched State. Ruin and dismay reign from the seaboard to the mountains. The political, social and financial ruin which South Carolina sought to bring upon the country has first overtaken herself. The plantation lords of the sea-islands and the coast—the richest part of the State—have fled in terror; the business and commercial portion of the State's only large city is in ashes; a great part of the poor whites—and these constitute the bulk of the white men in the State—refuse to fight; the slaves of the seaboard—the densest slave section of the State—are virtually freed and in anarchy; while this element is everywhere looked upon with distrust. The entire coast, from forty miles below to forty miles above Port Royal, is deserted by its white inhabitants, and the rattlesnake flag and the rebel batteries are swept from nearly the whole coast of South Carolina. The rebel soldiers are everywhere firing the cotton—which is the wealth and life of the State. The way in which the rebel soldiers act seems to indicate a perfect panic—as the pickets submit to capture without even firing a shot; and heavy bodies of rebels scamper off at the least indication of an approach of our troops. One of our correspondents avers that not a solitary instance of pluck has yet been exhibited by the South Carolinians. The State is suffering little short of famine; and even the coarse food of the slaves is doled out in scanty ra- [illegible] the State; but the State is as poor as they, and can afford no relief. Putting all the scattered facts together which have been collected by our correspondents, from refugees, deserters, captured rebels, and slaves, and the condition of South Carolina appears to be about as bad in every respect as it could be. There is no prospect of change either for the better; but, as the Winter advances, things are daily getting worse.

There has been a great deal of complaint about Gen. SHERMAN'S inactivity on the coast of South Carolina, and people are displeased because there have been no brilliant and dashing movements against the rebels. But this condition of affairs there must work as severely against the rebellion, and do as much to break up the spirit and pride of the rebels, as the most brilliant victory. It will render our operations easier, too, and make them far more effective in their results. When, in addition to these social and political miseries, our troops gain a decisive field victory in the State, the insolence and ferocity of the South Carolina oligarchy will be pretty effectually cowed down.

"BAGS" AT HOME.—Commander WILKES, who commanded the mail-bags of the *Trent*, and made a very great fool of himself at the time of her visitation by Capt. WILKES, has been playing the same part with still greater success in London. He has been making a speech in glorification of himself at a dinner given in his honor; and if our readers are curious to see how absurd a rigmarole a fatuous brainless, ridiculous old officer can utter on such an occasion, we commend to them the perusal of his remarks. He seems to have had a congenial and sympathizing audience.

DOINGS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.—Our City Fathers seem bent on making hay while the sun shines. They passed, on Saturday night, two or three sweeping measures, one purchasing the Fort Gansevoort property for a market, and another granting an immensely valuable railroad franchise to a private company without a word of public discussion, and, indeed, without the public knowledge. The experience of the last nights of our Common Council will prove valuable to the Legislature. It will show pretty conclusively the necessity of some radical reform of our City government.

Dedication of St. John's Methodist Church.

The neat edifice, just completed, for the St. John's Independent Methodist Church, in Forty-first-street, near the corner of Sixth-avenue, was dedicated yesterday with appropriate exercises. The Society was formed about three years since, commencing with eleven members and seventeen Sabbath School scholars. There are now eighty-eight members and over a hundred scholars. They worshipped in the Hall corner of Thirty-ninth-street and Broadway from June, 1858, until the completion of the present building. They differ from the Methodist Episcopal denomination in belief; independent of the Conference or Bishop, and choosing their own pastor for such time as to the Church shall seem most desirable. They own their church property, have no presiding elder, do not enforce attendance upon class-meetings as a condition of membership, and make their own code of laws instead of being governed solely by the ministry.

The present edifice was commenced about a year since, and cost about $17,000. The ground is leased for 63 years at an annual rental of $7 50. The main room is 73 feet by 53. At the rear, and adjoining, is a three-story chapel 69 feet by 23. The first floor of this chapel is used as a lecture-room, the second for 25 class-rooms, and the third as the residence of the janitor. The cellar underneath the whole is devoted to heating apparatus, and storage for coal, &c. The building is substantially constructed of brick, and is quite plain in its style of architecture, as becomes a Methodist Church. The following inscription appears over the entrance:

"*On earth peace; good will toward men.*"
ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH,
INDEPENDENT.

The sermon of the morning was preached by Rev. Dr. DOWLING, Baptist. The dedication prayer was made by Rev. Prof. MATTISON, the pastor. The afternoon sermon was by Rev. NEWTON HEATON, of Brooklyn, and the evening by Rev. Mr. COOKMAN, of Syracuse. There was a fair attendance at all the services. The plain, but serviceable interior arrangements of the main room were generally commended. The following are the officers of the church:

Pastor—Rev. H. MATTISON, A. M.
Class Leaders—Vernon Potter, George Hunter.
Stewards—David Hand, Clarkson Dye.
Trustees—Thomas M. Ferguson, President; Geo. Blaney, Secretary; James M. Coburn, Treasurer; Patrick Dickie, Wm. E. Davis, Thomas Jackson, Lorenzo Higgins, Wm. B. Harding, Wm. C. Bunn.
Superintendent of Sabbath School—George Neill.

Extensive Fire in Cherry-street.

PARTIAL DESTRUCTION OF AN OIL MANUFACTORY—DAMAGE ABOUT $20,000.

About 7½ o'clock last evening, a fire was discovered in the Judd Linseed and Sperm Oil Manufactory, situated at No. 312 Cherry-street. The building is a very large one, being four stories in height, and about two hundred feet in length. It was built of brick, in the most substantial manner, for a manufacturing establishment. The fire originated on the second floor, and, as it is believed, from spontaneous combustion. The firemen were very promptly on hand, and after about half an hour, they succeeded, as it was supposed, in effectually extinguishing the flames. They therefore pulled up and left the premises. In about an hour after, the bells sounded again for the same district, and it was soon ascertained that the flames had broken out afresh on the upper floors of the establishment. This time the firemen came on in large force, and worked with great zeal. But owing to the inflamable character of the material, the fire raged with great violence, and spread over the third and fourth floors with alarming rapidity. In a brief space of time nearly the whole of the upper part of the building was entirely destroyed. About one hundred feet of the second story was also burned. At least $20,000 worth of property was destroyed. It is fully insured, but in what companies, could not be ascertained. The steamboat of the Harbor Police was promptly on hand, and did very efficient service in protecting the shipping in the immediate vicinity, as well as in throwing water upon the burning building. This boat has an engine capable of throwing two streams of water with great force, and to the heighth equal to any ordinary building in town.

The Greenwich-street Homicide.

RESULT OF THE CORONER'S INVESTIGATION.

Coroner JACKMAN yesterday held an inquest upon the body of JOHN MORTON, who died on Saturday, at his residence, No. 151 Hammond-street, from injuries received in an affray on Christmas night, as published in yesterday's TIMES. From the evidence, it appears that there was a general fight between four men named WADE FIELDER, JOHN COLE, JEREMIAH FOX, and the deceased. The parties were all more or less intoxicated, and happening to meet on the corner of Greenwich and King streets, about 6 o'clock in the evening, soon became involved in an affray.

Officer *Martin Quinlan*, who witnessed the greater portion of the difficulty, testified that FIELDER first knocked Fox down, and that COLE kicked him while he (FOX) was down. He saw COLE strike deceased twice, but did not know at the time that he struck with a knife. No person other than COLE struck the deceased. The first blow knocked him down; deceased then got up, and COLE struck him the second time. Deceased did not return the blow. The officer immediately arrested COLE and FIELDER, and took them to the Station-house. COLE was there searched, and in one of his pockets was found a large spring knife with fresh blood upon the blade. The knife was exhibited to the jury, and is a large heavy sharp-pointed jack-knife. The blood was still upon one side of the blade.

Dr. Wooster Beach testified that he made a *post mortem* examination, and found a stab-wound an inch and a quarter in length just below the lower rib on the left side; the intestines were much lacerated; the cause of death was *peritonitis*, the result of injuries to the intestines.

The jury rendered a verdict that "deceased came to his death by a wound inflicted by a knife, similar to the one found upon the prisoner; and we think that the evidence strongly implicates the prisoner, JOHN COLE, as the guilty party." COLE is 45 years of age, a native of Middlesex County, N. J., and resides at the corner of Washington and Horatio streets. Upon the rendition of the verdict, the Coroner committed him to prison to await the action of the Grand Jury. FIELDER was sent to the House of Detention in Mulberry-street.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange....Dec. 28, 1861.

$6,000	U. S. 6s, '81	90	600	Harlem R. Prefer'd	27⅞
1,000	do.	90⅛	100	do.	28
5,000	N. Caro. St. 6s..	49⅛	150	Erie R. Preferred..	51⅛
20,000	Missouri 6s..	39⅛	50	do.....s10	51⅛
40,000	do	39⅛	50	do.....b30	51⅛
1,000	California St. 7s	79⅛	200	do	51
5,000	Brooklyn Im. Bs	95	50	do	51⅛
4,000	N. Y. Cen. 6s ..	91⅛	250	Harlem Railroad..	11⅛
3,000	Erie R. 1st m. b..	103	700	Chi. & R. I. R.....	46⅛
1,000	N. Y. Lib. m. b..	74	100	Mich. Cen. R.....	47
170	Pacific M. S. Co....	88⅛	50	do.....b30	47⅜
25	do.....b5	88⅛	100	do.....s10	46
50	do	89	20	do	46⅛
25	do	88⅛	100	do	46
50	do.....s10	89	100	Mich. So. & N. I. R.	18⅛
200	Clev. & Pitts. R....	16	150	M. So. & N. I. G. S.	39⅛
200	Cl. & Chic. R.....	65	50	do.....b30	39⅛
1,000	N. Y. Cen. R.....s	91⅛	100	do	39⅛
100	do.....b10	78⅛	150	do	39⅛
200	do.....b30	78⅛	50	do	39⅛
100	do.....bwk	78⅛	250	Pan. R. ex. div.	115
50	do.....b30	78⅝	10	do	103⅛
115	Erie Railway	29	50	do	103⅛
200	do	29⅛	100	Ill. Cen. R. scrip	60⅛
200	do	29⅜	100	do.....s10	60⅜
200	do.....b30	29⅜	200	do.....s10	60⅜
200	do.....s10	29⅜	100	Clev. & Tol. R.....	32⅝
100	do.....b30	29⅝	1550	do	32⅜
50	do.....b30	29⅝	500	do	32⅞
300	Reading R.....b30	33⅛	400	do.....b30	33

SECOND BOARD.

$6,000	U. S. 6s, '81	90	200	N. Y. Central R....	78⅜
5,000	do	90⅜	175	do	78⅜
1,000	U. S. 6s, '74, Cou.	81	50	do.....s60	78⅜
1,000	Tenn. State 6s, '90.	41⅜	20	Erie Railway	29⅜
1,000	do	41⅜	50	do.....b10	30⅛
30,000	Missouri State 6s	41	450	do	30⅛
5,000	Mo. 6s, ins. to H.		200	Clev. & Tol. R.....	33⅜
	& St. Joseph R.	45	200	do	34
1,000	N. Carolina 6s..	50½	400	do.....b30	34⅛
1,000	Georgia State 6s.	66⅞	200	Erie Railway Pref.	52
5,000	Ill. Canal Leg. R.	78	50	do	52⅛
5,000	Cal. State 7s	90	50	do.....b30	52⅛
4,000	N. Y. Cen. 6s.....s15	91	12	do	52⅛
2,000	L. E. & W. 1st M. B.	73	100	Hudson River R....	37⅜
60	Chi. & R. I. R.....	49⅛	50	Mich. Central R.....s30	47⅜
50	do	48⅝	50	do	47⅜
7	Bank of Commerce.	78	50	do	47⅜
50	Pac. Mail Stp. Co..	90⅜	200	Mich. S. & N. Ia. R.	19⅛
100	do.....s30	90⅜	25	do	19
25	do	90⅜	150	M. S. & N. I. G. Stk.	39⅛
100	do.....b30	90⅜	100	Ill. Cen. R. scrip	60⅜
50	do.....s60	90⅜	7	do	60
50	do	91	50	do.....s30	60⅜
100	do.....b30	91⅜	100	do	60⅜
350	do.....b30	91⅜	40	Mil. & Pra. Du Ch.	2d P 55
350	Gal. & Chi. R.....	65			

MONDAY, Dec. 30—8 A. M.

The past week was an exciting one in the Trade and Financial movements of the City, as well as in the political rumors and final event of the *Trent* difficulty reported from day to day from Washington. The diplomatic correspondence made public on Saturday forenoon, and the result arrived at by the Government, afforded very general satisfaction down town, and imparted a firmness to the Stock Exchange, which all previous rumors and advices on the subject, failed to create. While the result was not unexpected in trade and money circles, the disposition seems to have been quite general, not to act upon it with any great degree of confidence until the fact of settlement could be officially known. There is of course a lively sense of relief felt by all parties, of every nationality, connected with our Foreign Commerce, the Export branch of which—never more active and pressing or more profitable than at the present—was seriously threatened by the various questions or doubts growing out of the risk of War. The clearances of Domestic Produce during the week were nominally heavy, but to what extent they were hastened by the apprehension of an early difficulty with England, we have no means of knowing. Freights were suddenly advanced about ten days ago, under the large engagements of Breadstuffs, but the Exporters, on the other hand, had the advantage of a more liberal rate of Exchange. The Import trade was to a fair aggregate of entries. The suddenly-increased duties upon Sugar, Tea and Coffee, created some confusion at the Custom-house, under an order from the Treasury to the Collector, to act at once upon the newspaper copy of the Act, as telegraphed from Washington, and to apply the increased rates to the Sugars, &c., in Bond, on the day of its passage. Complaint is made that the Secretary thus construes the new Act oppressively to importations made under the Act of last Summer, and a question on the subject will probably be made before the Courts.

But the most notable event of the day is the suspension of specie payments by the Banks of this city, determined upon in convention on Saturday evening. The absolute suspension of specie payments, to take effect this morning, is only qualified by an agreement to make one payment more on the third $50,000,000 loan, to enable Mr. CHASE to meet his interest, due on the 1st prox., and to give him the means of paying a requisition in favor of this State for advances made to the Federal Government. The step is one which all admitted could not long be postponed, and should have been taken the moment it was seen to be inevitable; the indecision of the Bank Managers only served to embarrass the public by creating general distrust, and putting an end to nearly all ordinary business transactions. The resolutions passed by the Banks a few days ago were as ineffectual to stay the onward current of events as they were in 1857.

The feeling resulting will be one of great relief to the public. The arrangements between the Banks and the Government were upon a standard which neither could maintain. While it continued it stood in the way of the adoption of a financial system upon which the war must hereafter be carried on. There is no lack of capital in the country. This can be brought out through an adequate system of taxation, coupled with Treasury notes or bonds. Congress will, undoubtedly, take immediate action in the matter. In a period of war, the extraordinary expenditures must be met by some system which shall preserve the domestic exchanges in something like a normal condition. The enormous sums called for, to pay for men and supplies, in the absence of a system of taxation, or of a common currency, had so changed the ordinary course of capital, that the flow of money was from the cities to the interior, instead of the contrary direction, which is the rule. The recent payments on account of the loan ceased to return to the banks, and their specie reserves were running down, almost in direct ratio to such payments. Depositors took the alarm, and largely swelled the drain. The only course was suspension, and a readjustment of the relations of the Banks with the Government. We anticipate no inconvenience, but great advantage from the measure. Specie is most abundant, and will every day become more plentiful, both from importations and domestic productions. We do not, after a day or two, perhaps, expect to see it at any premium. There is enough for all the wants both of our internal and external commerce. It will not be long, probably, before the Banks will hold very nearly their usual average for some months past.

The Foreign Exchanges underwent little or no change for Bankers' bills during the week. The offers for Merchant bills were reduced ¼@1 cent. from the extreme rates of the week before. The Export of Specie is $312,000 for the week. The market for Money is 7 ℔ cent., and the employment active on Saturday among the Stock Brokers. The ordinary or Mercantile discounts at Bank stood rather higher on Saturday than at the close of the previous week.

The following are the balances at the Sub-Treasury at the close of each business day:

....day	$4,315,404	Thursday	$2,124,415
....day	4,010,734	Friday	4,560,941
....day	Holiday.	Saturday	4,016,256
Aggregate			$19,027,750

Average for five days $3,805,550.

The Import Entries of Foreign Merchandise at New-York for the past week, including the Dry Goods Trade in our last table, amount to $2,100,013, against $4,092,735 same week last year. The Export Clearances of Domestic Produce and Miscellaneous Goods are $4,295,653, against $2,658,385 same week last year. The Specie Export for the week is $312,000.

The Trade returns for eleven months of the calendar year at the Port of New-York, as returned by the Custom-house, and published in our paper in tabular form, some weeks ago, report the Import entries of Foreign Merchandise, exclusive Of Bullion, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 1.....$116,425,000
Add four weeks in Dec..... 8,771,513

Total since Jan. 1.....$125,196,513
Against same time last year..... 227,313,706

Decreased Import since 1st January..$102,117,093

The same tables make the Exports of Domestic Produce and Miscellaneous Goods, including Foreign articles reexported, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 1.....$124,374,006
Add four weeks in December..... 13,018,806

Total clearances since Jan. 1.....$137,392,806
Against same time last year..... 102,420,871

Increased Exports since Jan. 1.....$34,971,935

The Exports of Specie from New-York From Jan. 1 to present date, 1861, are.....$4,018,000
Against same time, 1860..... 42,072,000

Decreased Export of Specie since Jan. 1 $38,054,000

The Receipts of Foreign Gold and Silver and of Gold from California, at New-York, and at Boston for New-York account, since Jan. 1, are about as follows:

Foreign Gold entered at New-York.....$36,707,000
Foreign Gold entered at Boston..... 7,711,000
California Gold at New-York..... 34,549,000

Total income of Gold since Jan. 1.....$78,976,000

Against same time 1860:

From California.....$34,437,000
From abroad..... 10,220,000—$44,657,000

Increased receipts since Jan. 1.....$34,310,000

COURSE OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE FOR THE WEEK

New 6 ℔ cent. Stock of U. S. of 1861		89⅛ @ 90½	
New-York Central		76⅜ @ 75⅞ @ 78⅜	
New-York and Erie		26⅞ @ 26¼ @ 30⅞	
Erie Preference Shares		48½ @ 52	
Rock Island		46¼ @ 49¼	
Michigan Guaranteed		38¼ @ 39½	
Michigan Southern		17⅜ @ 18⅜	
Michigan Central		44⅜ @ 47⅞	
Toledo		30 @ 33⅞	
Galena		63¼ @ 65	
Illinois Central		57 @ 61	
Panama		110¼ div. on @ 110¼ ex. div.	
Pacific Mail		85 @ 91½ @ 90⅜	
Missouris		39½ @ 41	
Virginias		47½ @ 47⅜	
Tennessees		41½ @ 41 @ 41¾	
Hudson River		36¼ @ 37⅜	
Harlem Preferred		26½ @ 27⅜	
Cleveland and Pittsburgh		13⅜ @ 14⅜	

The Stock dealings in the early part of the week were marked by less violent fluctuations than the week before, although prices were yet slow to recover from the shock of the English news. The demand was also checked by the unsettled financial questions between the Government and the Banks. The continued drafts for Gold and the remaining doubt as to the issue of the British demand upon the Government for the release of Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL, induced a good many *short* sales, though it was observable that the jobbers inside the Stock Exchange Board, usually found on the *Bear* side, were steady buyers, absorbing not only the fresh parcels of cash Stock thrown upon the Market by the recent change in Money, but putting at fault outside parties who were sellers on this change. By Friday afternoon the diplomatic settlement at Washington was sufficiently certain to a portion of the Street to induce large purchases at an advance of 1@1½ ℔ cent., and on Saturday, when the official correspondence was made public, a further rise of 1@1½ ℔ cent. took place, extending to the Share list generally, and favorably influencing U. S. State and Railway Bonds. The *shorts* were considerable buyers, while some of the *Bull* speculators were disposed to realize where the advance was so tempting. At the close of the day, however, the buoyancy in the market continued at or very near the best sales at the Board, the general dealings leaving off firm, though under less excitement than had prevailed through the day. Some of the Brokers, and one or more of the large money lenders, reported an active inquiry for Money at 7 ℔ cent., but the complaint from the former was by no means general. It will be noticed from our comparative table of the course of the market, that the advance on the Railways is from 1 to 4 ℔ cent. over Saturday week. In the case of Panama, the whole dividend of 6 ℔ cent. is recovered. The Federal Coupon Stock of 1881 is 1 ℔ cent higher, and Missouris 1¾ ℔ cent. up.

The following were the last bids for the City Bank Shares:

Merchants'	80	Nassau	80
Commerce	75	Corn Exchange	85
American Exchange	75	Continental	70
Market	80		

And the following for the Railway Mortgages; the advance from Friday being quite general at ¼@1½ ℔ cent.:

N. Y. Cen. sixes	91	Mich. So. 7 ℔ c. firsts	81
N. Y. Cen. 7s, '64	98	Mich. So. 7 ℔ c. ass'd bds	57
Erie firsts, '68	103	Northern Ia. firsts	83
Erie thirds, '83	83¾	N. Ia. Goshen Line, '68	81½
Erie fourths, '80	74	M. S. & N. Ins. 1 ℔ c.	78
Hudson firsts, '69	105	Ill. Cen. 7 ℔ c., '75	85
Hudson seconds, s. f., '85	94	N. J. Cent. firsts	104
Hudson thirds, '75	75	N. J. Cent. seconds	98
Hudson convert. '67	68	Gal. & Chi. firsts	98
Harlem firsts, '69-'73	95	Chi. & Rock I. firsts	96
Harlem seconds, '64	90	L. E. & Wabash firsts	71
Mich. Cen. 8 ℔ c.	90½	Clev. & Tol. firsts, s. f.	77½
Chic. Bur. & Q. 8 ℔ c.	94¾		

The English mails by the *Niagara*, to Dec. 15, were delivered from Boston, at our Post-office yesterday (Sunday) morning. The political and, to a large extent, financial interest in the advices is qualified by the event at Washington of the settlement of the *Trent* affair. The probability is that this event will be anticipated in England ten or fifteen days before the arrival out of Saturday's dispatches. The note from Mr. SEWARD to Mr. ADAMS would no doubt be read to the English Cabinet a few days after the sailing of the *Niagara*. The receipt of the President's Message, in which there was no indorsement or recognition of the act of Captain WILKES would quickly follow. And these two papers, rightly interpreted, would go far to calm the popular excitement in reference to the arbitrament of War. The following article, from the *London Shipping Gazette* of Dec. 14, will afford some idea of the commercial and financial consequences expected to follow to English trade *by the preservation of peace with this country*, and the counter effect upon our own Exchanges and Bullion strength. The authority quoted is one of the best-informed, and perhaps freest from mere political prejudice, in London:

"The possibility of a prolonged war with the United States has naturally created considerable excitement in commercial circles, and much uneasiness in other quarters, on the subject of the future value of money in the discount market. As much misapprehension prevails on the subject of trade and the price of capital at a given period, it might be well to consider these two important elements of our National Commerce.

We have shown in previous impressions that our outward trade with America has fallen to a nominal amount, and that our imports from that quarter have left a heavy balance against us. That balance would have been a more severe one had it not been for the enormous quantities of war material, including clothing for the Southern army, purchased in this country during the three months ending November; but as the export of arms, gunpowder, &c., is now prohibited, *it is just possible, considering the immense supplies of food still on passage from New-York, and the heavy stocks of grain in the hands of the growers, that the exchanges will recede to a point that would compel us to send away further large supplies of gold to meet our liabilities.* A declaration of war would, of course, speedily place us in a different position. Shipments from America would cease, the balance of trade would be adjusted, and the commercial classes would have less to apprehend from the effects of a dear money market. We have frequently shown that it is impossible that our trade with the States could be successfully carried on under the influence of an adverse tariff; and it is equally clear, that, in the present tone and temper of the American people themselves, no relief can be anticipated from a system fraught with injustice, although it has almost ceased to furnish a single dollar to the Exchequer, after paying the expenses of collecting the import duties. But though our outward trade is lost, and has become wholly unproductive, *we are still importing the usual necessaries of life in great abundance, and it is with the utmost difficulty that a further rapid outflow of gold from this side is prevented.* Much stress has been laid upon the state of the exchanges at New-York as a proof that, ere long, we shall be in the receipt of large supplies of specie from that quarter. The shipment of arms, military clothing, &c., from this country has kept up the exchange tolerably well; but almost every mail brings sudden fluctuations in it. For instance, during the past month they have varied fully one per cent., and the last advices bring a decline in the quotations for bankers' bills to 109, and very flat at that quotation. In order to bring back some of the gold we have so freely shipped to the States during the present year, the exchanges upon London must rule at and above 109¼. That quotation would leave a small margin of profit on the export of bullion, but a lower figure would be adverse to our interests. *But, supposing that the present difficulty should end, as we sincerely hope it will, in a pacific solution, upon what principle could we calculate on even moderate shipments of gold to this country?* Our large operators in imported produce might reasonably hesitate to invest in American grain and flour; but, on the other hand, exports would continue as large as ever, and the result would be seriously detrimental to our internal and external commerce. We are no alarmists at a moderate and reasonable export of either gold or silver to any country which exercises a sound discretion in trade; but we have already felt too severely the effects of dear money arising from the American demand for gold, to desire a repetition of a bullion drain.

"At present the supply of capital in the general discount market is unusually large. The best bills are discounted as low a 2½ ℔ cent., and the stock of gold in the Bank of England is upwards of £15,000,000. The aggregate export trade of the United Kingdom is steadily on the increase, notwithstanding the falling off in it to the States and the gloomy advices from the manufacturing districts. As a nation, basing its greatness upon a progressive trade, it would be the height of folly were we to expose ourselves to even the possibility of an adverse state of things. Even assuming that no cotton can reach us from the States during the whole of next year, there would still remain an enormous balance against us for grain, flour, &c., and, without some direct legislative enactment, we should find ourselves, at no distant period, in monetary and commercial difficulties. The effects of dear money upon commerce are too well known to need recapitulation; but it must be evident to all that a heavy drain upon our resources to pay for American produce would be productive of a great amount of mischief to trade generally.

If, then, we are to be denied the usual privileges of a trading country, if we are compelled to trade upon a false basis, and if America must seek for English gold to meet the expenses of the struggle in the South, let us be careful how we deal with the question of Trade with the States in the coming year. *The energy now displayed by the Americans in providing us with ample supplies of food must of necessity continue to increase the present balance against us.* If they evince the same amount of energy next season as they have done this, and if the late insult to our flag is acknowledged and peaceably dealt with, money must become dearer in this country. It is quite true that nearly two millions sterling become payable here next month in the shape of interest on American Securities; but it is by no means clear that the payment of the amount here stated will check to any extent a heavy fall in the Exchange on London."

The writer for the *Shipping Gazette* is perhaps right in his calculation that our American Tariff will *not* be changed to accommodate the "outward trade" of Great Britain. However impolitic in point of the time chosen for its enactment, the MORRILL Tariff of March 2 was *then* deemed by many of our own people, the check which it gave to the importation and consumption of European fabrics, which we ought, in time of Civil war, either to do without or manufacture at home, is now acquiesced in, even by the early opponents of the Act, as a fortunate circumstance for the country. On this question, our English friends will have been further enlightened before the *Trent* settlement, by the recent Report of Secretary CHASE, who, while recognizing the principle of Free Trade in its proper time and place, is for the utmost self-reliance and home protection through the existing crisis.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS IN LONDON.

American Securities, &c.	Closing Prices.	Business.
United States 6 ℔ cent., red. 1874	69 @ 71	
Virginia State 6 ℔ cent.	42 @ 44	
Atlantic & Gt. Western, N. Y. sec., 1st Mortgage, 1880	60 @ 70	
Erie shares	24⅜ @ 25⅜	24¾ 5
Do. 7 ℔ cent. Preference	43 @ 45	43¾
Do. Assessment Scrip	1¼ @ 1¾	
Do. 1st Mtg. 7 ℔ cent., 1867	83 @ 88	
Do. 2d Mtg. 7 ℔ cent., 1859	80 @ 85	
Do. 3d M. 7 ℔ cent., 1883	72 @ 74	73
Illinois Cen. 6 ℔ cent., red. 1875	70 @ 74	
Do. 7 ℔ cent., red. 1875	74 @ 76	75
Do. $100 shares, $80 paid	49½ @ 48¾d.	49¾ 9 dls.
Do. do. all paid	49 @ 51	49¾ 50¾
Mich. Cen., Con. 1869, 8 ℔ c.	75 @ 80	
Do. S. F. 8 ℔ ct. 1st M., 82	75 @ 80	
New-York Central 6 ℔ cent. S. F., 1883	72 @ 76	
Do. 7 ℔ cent., 1864	85 @ 90 x.c.	
Do. 7 ℔ cent. S. F., 1876	85 @ 90	
Do. 7 ℔ cent. c. b., 1876	85 @ 90	
Do. $100 shares	64 @ 66	
Panama Railroad 1st Mortgage 7 ℔ cent., 1865	90 @ 95	
Do. 2d Mortgage 7 ℔ cent, '72	894 @ 896	
Pensylvania Central Bds., 1st m. 6 ℔ cent., conv	78 @ 82	
Do. 2d Mort. 6 ℔ cent	76 @ 78	
Do. $50 shares	27 @ 29	
Philadelphia & Reading $50 shs.	14 @ 18	

Interest for the half year, at 7 ℔ cent. ℔ annum, will be paid by the United States Life Insurance Company, on Thursday, on their capital.

Sailing of the Jura.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 27.

The steamship *Jura* sailed at nine o'clock last night for Liverpool, *via* Londonderry. MASON and SLIDELL were not on board.

Silver-Plated Goods,
for the
HOLIDAYS.
COFFEE AND TEA URNS,
TEA SETS,
CAKE BASKETS,
FORKS, SPOONS, &c., &c.
A great variety of first-class goods offered at prices to suit the times, at No. 22 John-st. W. S. MURRAY.

At William Taylor's Saloon,
No. 555 Broadway,
Boned Turkey, Cakes, Jellies, Charlotte Russe, Brandy, Fruits, Ornamental Pyramids. Also, an endless variety of fancy articles for Christmas Trees, appropriate to the times.
Confectionery, Bon Bon Boxes, Cornucopias, &c.
Maisons's celebrated Paris Chocolate.

At Retail.
Musical Boxes, playing from 2 to 24 tunes.
Toy Musical Boxes, playing 1, 2, 3 or 4 tunes.
Watches, gold and silver, at all prices.
M. J. PAILLARD, Importer,
No. 21 Maiden-lane, (up stairs,) New-York.

A Beautiful and Useful Gift.—GROVER & BAKER'S Noiseless Sewing Machine: "no house complete without it—no family content without its merry click, or the still more magical 'noiseless' worker, that saves time, health and money. Your wife will greet such a gift with smiles of gratitude."—*Tribune.*

Trusses.—MARSH & CO.'S Radical Cure Truss, No. 2 Vesey-st., opposite the church. All kinds of Trusses, Supporters, (Military Shoulder Braces and Dr. Wadsworth's Uterine Elevator,) Elastic Stockings, and Mechanical appliances for Deformities. (A female attends ladies.)

Merry Christmas and Happy New-Year.—Ladies, if you wish for yourselves and families gaiters and button-boots, Balmorals, boys' patent leathers, gents' embroidered slippers, forming useful and appropriate gifts for the holidays, patronize MILLER & CO., 387 Canal-st.

Chinese and India Curiosities, Silks, Handkerchiefs, Crapes, Pineapple Goods, Vases, Tea Sets, Lacquered Articles, Fans, American Indian Work, &c., forming the largest stock ever offered, and at the lowest prices, by FOUNTAIN & CO., No. 453 Broadway.

Japanese, American Indian, Chinese, Manila, and East India and novel goods in every variety, new and cheap as any in the City, wholesale and retail, No. 668 Broadway. FOUNTAIN & CO.

Boots and Shoes.—Gentlemen's custom-made Boots and Shoes—the stock of a Broadway boot-maker—now selling below cost of manufacture, at SLATER'S, No. 2 Cortlandt-st., near Broadway.

Central Park—Ball Up.—Skates and Skating Caps, for ladies and gentlemen, at WHITE'S, No. 216 Broadway, Opposite St. Paul's Church.

Rich Scarfs for the Holidays.
D. C. SILLECK & COX.
No. 159 Broadway, corner Liberty-st.

OFFICIAL DRAWINGS OF MURRAY, EDDY & CO.'S
KENTUCKY AND MISSOURI STATE LOTTERIES.
KENTUCKY, EXTRA CLASS 667.—Dec. 28, 1861.
4, 66, 44, 13, 5, 24, 29, 73, 56, 41, 6, 7.
KENTUCKY, CLASS 668.—Dec. 28, 1861.
20, 26, 46, 4, 27, 9, 23, 37, 25, 57, 29, 65, 21.
Circulars sent free of charge by addressing either to
MURRAY, EDDY & CO.,
Covington, Ky., or St. Louis, Mo.

TO ASTHMATICS.
SAMUEL KIDDER & CO.'S ASTHMATIC PASTILLES give instant relief. They are to burn and obviate the necessity of taking medicine. May be used by children or adults with equal success. For sale by Hegeman & Co., Nos. 161, 399, 511 and 756 Broadway, and 17th-st., corner of 4th-av.; J. Milhau & Son, No. 183 Broadway, and by all wholesale and retail druggists.

WANTED—BACK NUMBERS OF THE NEW-YORK TIMES, Oct. 10, 22,; Nov. 20; all of 1860. Twelve cents each will be paid for the above. Inquire of Sub-Clerk at this Office.

WIGS AND TOUPEES.
ORNAMENTAL HAIR—ALL KINDS.
HAIR DYE—BEST IN USE.
HAIR DYEING—ALL COLORS.
MOLDAVIA CREAM, for preserving, beautifying and forcing the hair to grow.
☞ All these articles can be found, in greatest perfection, at W. A. BATCHELOR'S celebrated establishment, No. 16 Bond-st.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
To buyers of BUTLERS' SUPPLIES, and SHIP STORES.
GEO. C. PARKER & BRO.
No. 220 Washington-st., second store above Murray-st., offer the following articles, of the best quality,
Low for CASH, or TREASURY NOTES.
500 kits extra MACKEREL.
500 quarter bbls. extra MACKEREL.
1,000 small city-cured HAMS.
1,000 small pieces smoked BEEF.
100 fifty-pound boxes smoked HALIBUT.
3,000 boxes new smoked HERRING.
500 boxes CHEESE.
500 packages BUTTER, in tubs, kegs, and firkins.

THE READERS OF THE TIMES
Will bear in mind that
E. ANTHONY, NO. 501 BROADWAY.
(three doors from St. Nicholas Hotel,)
IS
HEADQUARTERS
FOR
PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS,
STEREOSCOPIC VIEWS,
AND
CARTE DE VISITE PHOTOGRAPHS OF CELEBRITIKS.
It will be unwise to buy before seeing his assortment. Will continue open in the evening until Jan. 1.

ATTRACTIVE HOLIDAY GOODS IN GREAT VARIETY.
SILVER AND PLATED TEA SETS, URNS, LIQUOR STANDS WAITERS, CLOCKS, VASES, MANTEL ORNAMENTS, GILT-MOUNTED FANCY AUSTRIAN GOODS, PARIAN STATUARY, BRONZES, PLAIN AND ORNAMENTAL DINNER AND TEA SERVICES, PASTEL AND OIL PAINTINGS, MIRRORS,
and a vast assortment of other articles, suitable for HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
all of which will be sold at reduced prices.
E. V. HAUGHWOUT & CO.,
Nos. 488, 490 and 492 BROADWAY,
Corner of Broome-st.

CHARITY.
Those MAGNIFICENT ANTIQUE BRONZE VASES, 31 inches high, presented to the Ladies' Union by friends in the "CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH," and which were to have been raffled for at the Ladies' Fair in the City Assembly Rooms, are now to be seen at E. V. HAUGHWOUT & CO.'S, corner Broadway and Broome-st., where the list will be filled up and the articles disposed of, as originally intended, for the benefit of the Ladies' Union Fund for the Poor.

CHAPPED HANDS, FACE, LIPS, &c.
CERTAIN CURE AND PREVENTIVE.
HEGEMAN & CO.'S Camphor Ice, with Glycerine will keep the skin soft in the coldest weather. Sold by druggists generally.
Price 25 cents. Sent by mail on receipt of 30 cents.
HEGEMAN & CO., Nos. 161, 399, 511 and 756 Broadway.

LADIES' FINE GOLD WATCH CHAINS,
NEW PATTERNS,
Some as low as $8 and $10 each, at
GEO. C. ALLEN'S, No. 415 Broadway,
One door below Canal-st.

LADIES' FINE GOLD BAND BRACELETS,
Some as low as $7 each,
AT
G. C. ALLEN'S, No. 415 Broadway,
One door below Canal-st.

PATENTED NOVEMBER 1, 1859.

BALLOU'S PATENT
IMPROVED FRENCH YOKE SHIRTS,
Patented November 1, 1859.
A NEW STYLE OF SHIRT, WARRANTED TO FIT. Made to measure at $15, $18, $24, &c., &c., per dozen. No order taken for less than half a dozen shirts. Wholesale trade supplied on the usual terms.
BALLOU BROTHERS,
No. 499 Broadway, New-York.

EXPRESSLY FOR NEW-YEAR.
PLATED COFFEE URNS.
I did not exhibit my beautiful Urns until after Christmas, but I now offer them, together with the
DOUBLE-PLATED ICE PITCHERS,
both of which should ornament the tables when the "Lords of Creation!" make their New-Year's calls.
I also offer my usual assortment of
PLATED TEA SETS, CASTORS, CUPS, FORKS, SPOONS, &c.,
which are very useful and durable as presents.
If my friends and patrons will take the trouble of going a little out of the way to call, they will surely find that
"IT PAYS! IT PAYS! IT PAYS."
LUCIUS HART & CO., Nos. 4 and 6 Burling-slip.

ARTISTIC PRESENTS,
HOLIDAY GIFT SEEKERS
Will find the most recherche as well as popular collection of
ART TRIFLES AND SUBSTANTIALITIES
IN THE COMPLETE VARIETY OF
PHOTOGRAPH-ALBUMS, CARTES-DE-VISITE AND ELEGANT SETTINGS, COLOR-BOXES, EASELS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS IN PASSE-PARTOUTS, FRAMED PRINTS, PORTFOLIOS, DRAWING ALBUMS, HAND-BOOKS ON ART, AND OTHER BEAUTIFUL ARTICLES, AT GOUPILS, No. 772 Broadway, corner of 9th-st.

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS
AND RICH HOLIDAY GOODS.
FREEMAN, RYER & CO., in addition to their store No. 13 Maiden-lane, have opened the new building No. 391 Broadway, where they have a full assortment of PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS of their own importation and make. Also, an elegant variety of Fans, Opera Glasses, Desks, Work Boxes, Dressing Cases, Traveling Bags, Shell Combs, &c., &c., all of which will be sold at Reduced Prices.
FREEMAN, RYER & CO.,
Importers, No. 13 Maiden-lane,
and No. 391 Broadway, 2d block below Canal-st.

PETER COOPER'S
Clarified
SHEET AND SHRED GELATINE,
An improved article for
CALVES' FOOT JELLY, BLANC MANGE, AND WINE JELLIES.
Sold by all the principal grocers and druggists.
PETER COOPER, No. 17 Burling-slip.

IMPORTANT.
ALL ARTICLES FOR SOLDIERS
At Port Royal, Hatteras Inlet, Fortress Monroe, Baltimore, Washington, and all other places, should be sent by HARNDEN'S EXPRESS, No. 74 Broadway,
As they charge only
HALF RATES.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 28, 1861.

THE WOMAN'S CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF RELIEF FOR THE ARMY desires to acknowledge the receipt of the following contributions:

From Mrs. Jones	$25
From Allen McLane	50
From J. Lennox	250
From C. V. Roosevelt	25
From Mrs. J. E. Thayer	100
From Cash	25
From Cash	25
From Pacific Mail Steamship Company	500

H. POTTER, Treasurer. (by A. W.)

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

GET THE BEST!
WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY.
NEW PICTORIAL EDITION.
"THE BEST HOLIDAY GIFT."
ONE OF PERMANENT VALUE.
Sold by all Booksellers.

1862. APPLETON'S RAILWAY 1862. GUIDE.
THE
JANUARY NUMBER, NOW READY,
OF THE
OFFICIAL ILLUSTRATED RAILWAY GUIDE.
CONTENTS OF THE JANUARY NUMBER:
I. PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SAMUEL MORSE FELTON, President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railway; with Portrait of Mr. Felton.
II. RAILWAYS AND THEIR PROGRESS: Our Position; Special Railway Time-Table between New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington; Railway Managers; The Railway Commerce of the Country; Illinois as a Corn State; Improvement in Railway Property; The Pacific Railway; Philadelphia and Erie Railway; Baltimore and Washington Railway; Toledo, Ohio, and her Railways; Milwaukie and Prairie du Chien Railway; Chicago and Northwestern Railway; Racine and Mississippi Railway; A Railway Pioneer; Railways; Illinois as a Farming State; Cedar Rapids and Missouri Railway; Central Iowa Railway; Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railway; Cleveland and Toledo Railway; Cleveland and Columbus Railway; Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railway; Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railway; Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway; Ohio and Mississippi Railway; Marietta and Cincinnati Railway; Pacific Railway of Missouri; Ohio and Pennsylvania Railway; Pacific Railway Company; Grand Trunk Railway of Canada.
III. ANECDOTES AND INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL: The Old Printer; The Surgeon of the Garrison, or the Two Lieutenants; Our Fat Contributor in the Home Guard; Doestieks on "Shoddy;" The Way to Cape Ann; The Two Important Questions, or The Indignant Barber; Cleaning up an Expression; Napoleon's Coat of Mail; A Soldier's Privilege; Take which Road you Please, or John Randolph Outdone; The two Pukes and the two Snobs; Not Used to it, or Who Salted the Water?
IV. THROUGH ROUTE MAPS, delineating the principal routes to and from Boston, Portland, Montreal, New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, &c., with Maps and other information relating to the readiest means of traveling to and from all principal cities South, East, and West.
V. APPLETON'S COUNTING-HOUSE CALENDER.
VI. APPLETON'S TIME-INDICATOR.
VII. GAZETTEER OF THE UNITED STATES.
VIII. NEARLY ONE HUNDRED RAILWAL-MAPS.
IX. RAILWAY TIME-TABLES TO DATE, &c., &c.
PRICE ONLY 25 CENTS PER COPY.
APPLETON'S OFFICIAL RAILWAY-GUIDE can be obtained at all the principal news-depôts and upon all the principal railways throughout the United

Movements of European Steamers.

FROM EUROPE.

Borussia	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 18
Etna	Liverpool	New-York	Dec. 18
Norwegian	Liverpool	Portland	Dec. 19
John Bell	Glasgow	New-York	Dec. 21
Asia	Liverpool	New-York	Dec. 21
Bremen	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 23
Kangaroo	Liverpool	New-York	Dec. 26
Bohemian	Liverpool	Portland	Dec. 26
Canada	Liverpool	Boston	Dec. 28
City of Baltimore	Liverpool	New-York	Jan. 1
Saxonia	Southampton	New-York	Jan. 1
North American	Liverpool	Portland	Jan. 2
Hammonia	Southampton	New-York	Jan. 15
Bavaria	Southampton	New-York	Jan. 29

FROM AMERICA.

America	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 1
Damascus	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 2
Arago	New-York	Southampton	Jan. 4
Nova Scotian	Portland	Liverpool	Jan. 4
Edinburgh	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 4
St. Andrew	New-York	Glasgow	Jan. 7
Niagara	Boston	Liverpool	Jan. 8
Etna	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 11
Asia	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 15
Kangaroo	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 18
John Bell	New-York	Glasgow	Jan. 21
City of Baltimore	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 24

Mails Close at the Post-office.

North Mails close at ..... 5 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
South Mails close at ..... 5 A. M. and 4:30 and 10 P. M.
Western Mails (*via* Erie Railroad) 5 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
Eastern Mails close at ..... 5 A. M., 2 P. M. and 6:30 P. M.

Mails for California, Oregon, Washington and the Sandwich Islands close daily at the New-York Post-office at 9½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.

On Sunday all Mails close at 1:30 P. M.

GENERAL ORDER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 23, 1861.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT has a rendezvous for shipping men at each of the following places:

Portsmouth, New-Hamshire.
Boston and New-Bedford, Massachusetts.
New-York.
Philadelphia and Erie, Pennsylvania.
Baltimore, Maryland; and
Washington, District of Columbia.

Seamen, ordinary seamen, and landsmen, who can pass the usual surgeon's examination, by presenting themselves at the rendezvous nearest their residence, with an official certificate from the city or town clerk, signifying that they are residents and have expressed a desire to leave to enter the navy, will be received on the following terms:

1st. An allowance of three cents a mile for traveling expenses.

2d. An advance of *three* months to seamen and ordinary seamen, and of *two* months to landsmen.

3d. Permission, to leave an allotment of half-pay to their families, to commence the date of their enlistment.

4th. To go on board ship in their ordinary clothes, where an outfit will be furnished and charged as per list, being the present prices, viz.:

One pea jacket	$11 00
One pair blue cloth trowsers	3 39
One blue flannel overshirt	1 60
Two under flannel shirts	2 32
Two pairs woolen drawers	2 16
One mattress	4 90
Two blankets	3 80
One seamless bag	1 00
One black silk handkerchief	1 00
Total	$31 27

The pay of petty officers averages $20 to $25 per month.
The pay of seamen ..... 18 per month.
The pay of ordinary seamen ..... 14 per month.
The pay of landsmen ..... 12 per month.
And food found.

No landsman will be allowed to take the benefit of this regulation who has not been four months at sea or on the lakes or rivers.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

FLOWERS, FLOWERS.—WM. FITZPATRICK, Florist, 28th-st. and Broadway, will have a splendid collection of flowers on hand for New-Year. A fine assortment of baskets to select from, and bouquets arranged in the neatest style. Orders respectfully solicited.

NATURAL FLOWERS
ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

Bouquets, Baskets and Pyramids of Flowers, Wreaths, Crosses, &c., &c., furnished to parties, weddings and funerals. Rustic Stands, Hanging Baskets, &c., &c. Having made large contracts for the season, we are prepared to fill at short notice all orders for the above.

Orders for New-Year's day now received.

DAVID CLARKE, 643 Broadway, corner Bleecker-st.

Nurseries and conservatories, Broadway and 71th-st., Bloomingdale.

PERSONAL.

STOLEN BY A PICKPOCKET—COUPON for semi-annual interest ($35) on First Mortgage Bond, No. 169, Harlem Railroad Company. Payment has been duly stopped. A. M. H.

WILL MRS. EARLE, OF BROOKLYN, send her sister, NANCY McELNER, to No. 72 5th-av., corner of West 13th-st.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

RICH, ELEGANT AND USEFUL
HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

THE LARGEST STOCK,
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STYLES AND PATTERNS
of
GOLD AND SILVER PENCIL AND PEN CASES
In the market, is to be found at
A. MORTON'S,
No. 25 Maiden-lane.
Prices from 75 cents to $25.

These can be put up and sent safely by mail to the Patriots in the Army and Navy, to Friends in any part of the country, and even *some* parts of South Carolina.

WALKING CANES.

USEFUL AND ELEGANT HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

Gold, Silver and Ivory Mounted
WALKING CANES
Of every description and price, from
25 cents to $40.

THE LARGEST, CHEAPEST
AND
BEST ASSORTMENT
In the City, can be found at
A. COX'S SON'S,
No. 25 Maiden-lane.

BARGAINS FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
IN CHEAP DRESS GOODS,
CLOAKS, SHAWLS, HANDKERCHIEFS,
LACE AND MUSLIN CURTAINS, &c.,
BLANKETS, &c., &c.,
At Nos. 108 and 110 6th-av.
C. G. HOOK.

FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

BECKER'S PATENT REVOLVING STEREOSCOPES are very appropriate on account of their elegant appearance, and being the only make that shows every style of those pictures correct without handling. They hold from two to twelve, and even fifty dozen pictures. In different patterns of rosewood and black walnut. For sale at our first stereoscopic depôts and opticians.

Manufactory, No. 411 Broadway.

ELEGANT HOLIDAY PRESENT.—LE Bouquet Imperial," the perfume Princess Clotilde called "delightful," and of which Prince Napoleon ordered $50 worth to be sent to the Palais Royal, Paris, sold by the manufacturer, GEO. REYNOLDS, No. 260 Court-st., Brooklyn, and by druggists and perfumers generally, at 50 cents per bottle.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

OFFICE OF RECEIVER OF TAXES, Dec. 19, 1861.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL parties in arrears for taxes of the current year, that the same must be paid before the 1st day of January next.

All taxes remaining unpaid on that day will be subject to a penalty at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum from the 30th of September last. JAMES KELLY, Receiver.

BUTCHERS' AND DROVERS' BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 30, 1861.

NOTICE.—THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR eleven Directors of this Bank, and for three Inspectors of the next succeeding election, will be held at the Banking House, on TUESDAY, the 14th day of January next. The poll will open at 1 o'clock and close at 2 P. M. By order of the Board. R. P. PERRIN, Cashier.

WINES AND LIQUORS.

FINE OLD WINES AND BRANDIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—WM. HUGHES & SON are now selling the best old Bourbon, Monongahela Scotch, Irish and Rye Whiskies at the lowest market prices. A variety of fine brandies and wins constantly on hand. Also an assortment of syrups and cordials for bar and table use. We ask particular attention to our fine old cider brandy, port, sherry, Madeira, claret and other wines in variety. WM. HUGHES & SON, Nos. 319 and 321 7th-av., between 30th and 31st sts., N. Y.

MACHINERY, &C.

STEAM ENGINES.—A LARGE ASSORTMENT on stock, from 5 to 100 horse-power. Also portables of various sizes, and finest quality, for sale at our works a Orange, N. J., or at depot and store No. 13 Dey-st., New-York. Also flax, hemp, and rope machinery made to order. TODD & RAFFERTY.

FOR SALE—ONE SECOND-HAND ENGINE; has been overhauled; in complete order; 15 horse-power. Will be sold low if applied for soon. Inquire at No. 643 Water-st.

COAL, &C.

RED AND WHITE ASH COAL, OF THE first qualities, consisting of genuine Peach Orchard, Lehigh and Locust Mountain, properly screened; also Liverpool Orrel and Cannel, of recent importations—all at lowest market prices. HENRY REEVE.

Corner Canal and Centre and corner Jane and West sts.

HORSES AND CARRIAGES.

FOR SALE—A VERY STYLISH SPAN OF WELL matched bay carriage horses. Also a coupé, nearly as good as new. Apply at first private stable in alley of No. 2 West 27th-st., or at office No. 11 of No. 25 Nassau-st.

AUCTION SALES.

EDWARD SCHENCK, Auctioneer.
LARGE AND PEREMPTORY SALE OF MAGNIFICENT
LADIES' FURS, CARRIAGE ROBES, &c.,
By EDWARD SCHENCK,

At his salesrooms, Nos. 155 and 157 Broadway, THIS DAY, 30th inst., at 11 o'clock A. M., a very large assortment of the very richest Furs, manufactured the present season, of the finest skins, by one of the largest houses in the trade, expressly for retail trade. They comprise:

REAL RUSSIAN SABLE, HUDSON BAY SABLE,
MINK, MARTEN, ROYAL ERMINE,
all adapted for both ladies' and gentlemen's wear.

CAPES, TALMAS, VICTORINES,
CUFFS, CLOAKS, MUFFS,
PELERINES.

Also an entire stock of a large variety of elegant
SLEIGH, CARRIAGE AND LAP ROBES,
among which may be found rich and well trimmed
ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF,
VERY RICH GRIZZLY BEAR,
WHITE POLAR BEAR,
HUDSON BAY WOLF,
Wolf Robes, set in with black bear, beautiful French Genet and Coon Lap Robes.

In offering this sale to the public I would state that every article sold will be warranted by me to be exactly as represented, entirely fresh goods and free from moth. And I further give every purchaser the privilege to return, within three days after the sale, any article should it not prove to be so. The attention of the ladies is particularly invited to this sale.

EDWARD SCHENCK, Auctioneer.
ASSIGNEE'S SALE OF
18 CARAT GOLD JEWELRY AND WATCHES,

By EDWARD SCHENCK, on TUESDAY, 31st inst., at 2 o'clock P. M., at his salesrooms, Nos. 155 and 157 Broadway, an elegant assortment of imported jewelry, watches, and diamonds, comprising superb full sets of 18 carat gold bracelets, pins and ear-rings, superbly enameled do., magnificent bracelets, frosted and enameled brooches, stone cameo do., superb ruby and diamond do.; elegant diamond and other scarf-pins, diamond studs, coral and diamond fly do., sets of coral and diamond vest and sleeve buttons, superb sets of oriental pearl pins and ear-rings, ladies' watches, enameled and set with diamonds, hunting do., superb frosted, enameled and engraved bracelets and brooches, diamond cluster pins, rings, &c., superb emerald do., elegant sets of charms, vest and sleeve buttons, seals, &c., and other superb jewelry.

The above will be on exhibition at the salesroom on Monday. The public are assured that the goods are the finest imported, and such as have never been offered before at public sale. R. J. SALISBURY, Assignee.

RUSSEL W. WESTCOTT, Auctioneer.
Assignee's sale of elegant
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.
Magnificent Parlor Suites, Pianoforte,
Magnificent Diamond Bracelets, cost $400—Cluster Diamond Rings, Statuary, Paintings, &c.,

Comprising the entire rich and costly contents of the elegant residence No. 152 West 21st-st., near 7th-av., to be sold at public auction, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON, at 1 o'clock precisely, the whole for positive sale, without regard to weather, among which are two elegant suites of solid rosewood parlor furniture, one blue and gold brocatel, and one in crimson, maroon and gold, both first-class and new; elegant etageres, rich vases, statuary, mantel ornaments, centre and pier-tables, magnificent pastel paintings, rosewood secretary and book-case, marble music cabinet, with elegant parlor, chamber, dining-room and library furniture, of every description: rich ruby and crystal cut-glass, French china, silverware, table cutlery, extension-table, marble bufet, &c. Catalogues at house. A deposit will be required of purchasers.

DANIEL A. MATHEWS, Auctioneer.
ATTRACTIVE SALE OF SUPERB DIAMOND,
ENAMELED, AND 18 CARAT GOLD
WATCHES, DIAMOND, RUBY, GARNET
AND GOLD JEWELRY.

DANIEL A. MATHEWS, Auctioneer, will sell THIS DAY, (Monday,) at 11 o'clock, by order of Importers, a large stock of ladies' superb diamond, enameled, and 18 carat gold watches, by the best makers; also gents' 18 carat gold hunting-case watches, various styles: also diamond, ruby, garnet, etruscan and other jewelry, all of the finest quality, and of a class rarely offered at auction. Parties wishing reliable watches will do well to attend this sale, as every article will be guaranteed as represented. Immediately after the above, a large assortment of rich Paris fancy goods, silver-plated ware, clocks, bronzes, real Parian marble statuary, &c.

GEORGE COOK, Auctioneer.
ASSIGNEE'S SALE OF
ELEGANT FURNITURE.

Marble, bronze and ormolu clocks, bronze and Parian vases and figures, musical boxes from four to twelve tunes; Accordeons of all sizes.

TO-DAY, at 10½ o'clock, at the store, No. 141 Broadway, GEO. COOK will sell as above for cash, parlor suites in various coverings: library and dining-room furniture en suite; chamber suites of rosewood, satin-wood, oak, black walnut and mahogany; elegant parlor secretaries, canterburies, etageres, centre, fancy and work tables, amofre-à-glace, wardrobes, bookcases, shaving stands, dressing tables, bufets, hall stands and chairs.

Also,
An invoice of superb French clocks, &c.
Music boxes and accordeons of various styles.
For particulars, see catalogues.

ALBERT H. NICOLAY, Auctioneer.
REGULAR SALE OF STOCKS AND BONDS.
ALBERT H. NICOLAY
Will sell THIS DAY, (MONDAY,) Dec. 30, at 12½ o'clock, at the
MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE,
A good variety of City, Insurance and Bank Stocks, Bonds and other Securities, suitable for investments. For full particulars, see *World, Commercial Advertiser* and *Evening Post*. Catalogues can be obtained at the office No. 62 William-st. Next regular sale on THURSDAY, Jan. 2, at the MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.
ALBERT H. NICOLAY, Auctioneer,
Real Estate and Stock Broker.

EDWARD SCHENCK, Auctioneer.
ASSIGNEES' SALE OF AN
ELEGANT STOCK OF SILVER-PLATED WARE.

By EDWARD SCHENCK, on TUESDAY, 31st inst., at 10½ o'clock, at his salesrooms, Nos. 155 and 157 Broadway, an elegant assortment of fine finest silver-plated ware, comprising elegant tea and coffee sets, waiters of all sizes, coffee urns, swing kettles, fruit bowls, casters of all kinds, superb liquor stands, cake baskets, epergnes, toast racks, goblets, cups, &c. The above goods are of the finest manufacture, and will be positively sold without reserve.

EDWARD SCHENCK, Auctioneer.
LIGHT TOP WAGON,

By EDWARD SCHENCK, on MONDAY, 30th inst., at 2 o'clock, at his salesrooms, Nos. 155 and 157 Broadway, an elegant light shifting-top wagon, made by Brewster, nearly as good as new; to be positively sold without reserve.

A. M CRISTALAR, Auctioneer.
PEREMPTORY SALE OF A LARGE AND extensive assortment of
GOLD AND SILVER HUNTING AND OPEN-FACE WATCHES,
FINE GOLD AND DIAMOND JEWELRY, LOOSE PRECIOUS STONES, WATCH MOVEMENTS, &c.

To be sold at auction on MONDAY, Dec. 30, 1861, at 10½ o'clock, without reserve, by
A. M. CRISTALAR, No. 23 Fowery,
to pay advances and close consignments,
Consisting in part of
Gold hunting and open-face English Patent Levers.
Gold hunting and open-face Double-time Levers.
Gold hunting and open-face Straight-line Levers.
Gold hunting and open-face Anchors and Lepines.
Gold hunting Enamelled and Diamond Watches.
Silver hunting English Patent Levers, Anchors, Lepine and Verge Watches, together with a variety of
Diamond, Pearl and Ruby Rings, Brooches, Ear-rings, Studs, and various other articles in the line.

N. B.—To Jewelers and Diamond-setters—At 12 o'clock, a large lot of loose precious stones, consisting of turquoise, emeralds, rubies, pearls, carbuncles, amethysts, onyx and rose diamonds. A. M. CRISTALAR, Auctioneer.

HENRY H. LEEDS, Auctioneer.
HENRY H. LEEDS & CO. WILL SELL at auction, on TUESDAY, Dec. 31, at 11 o'clock, at our salesroom No. 23 Nassau-st., Assignee's sale of superb diamond jewelry, watches, silverware, &c., by order of Richard Dennis, assignee, being the remaining balance of the stock, and the closing sale, and comprising by far the most valuable and recherché assortment, consisting of valuable watches set with diamonds and pearls, independent second double lever chronometers and duplex watches, hunting and single cases, patent lever do., by Roskell, Cooper, Tobias, and other first-class makers; ladies' and gents' chatelains, vest and fob chains; cameo, pearl and other complete sets of bracelets, brooch and ear-rings set with diamonds and other precious stones, diamond, ruby, emerald and seal rings in great variety, sterling silverware in sets, salvers, cups, goblets, &c., &c.; gold thimbles, clusters, solitaire and hoop rings of value; diamond pins and crosses, ear-rings, &c. In this sale will be offered jewelry of the first class and diamonds of the first water. Every article to be sold without reserve, by order of R. DENNIS, Assignee.

HENRY H. LEEDS, Auctioneer.
HENRY H. LEEDS & CO. WILL SELL at auction, on MONDAY, Dec. 30, at 10½ o'clock, at the salesroom No. 21 Nassau-st.:

Continuation sale of beautiful fancy goods, terra cotta vases, with platina vines and figures, terra cotta match stands, terra cotta pitchers with covers, Japanese congee bowls, albumets, card receivers, ruby and engraved decanters, &c.

ALSO, AT 12 O'CLOCK,
Beautifully illustrated works, albums, &c., viz.: Rodgers' Poetical Works, Moore's Melodies, Sacred Allegories Women of the Scriptures, Kirk White's Stratford Gallery, Keat's Poetical Works, Goldsmith's do., &c., all beautifully bound, and finely illustrated. All to be sold without reserve.

BROWNE & NICHOLS, Auctioneers.
MONDAY, DEC. 30, AT 10 1-2 O'CLOCK, at salesrooms, No. 35 Nassau-st., imported fancy goods, Berlin ware, Bohemian glass, French china, Japan goods, art trifles, fine paintings, clocks, bronzes, Pearl goods, &c. The above goods are to be sold without reserve. Also, an invoice of English watches and watch movements. Also, French China dinner sets.

W. M. HOLLINGSHEAD, Auctioneer.
PEREMPTORY SALE OF 500 CASES MEN'S Grain Cavalry Boots, and 300 do. Women's, Misses and Children's Morocco copper-nailed Boots and Balmorals, at auction, on TUESDAY, Dec. 31, at 10½ o'clock, at the store of J. T. Whitehouse, No. 25 Cortlandt-st., also other desirable styles of Boots and Shoes, well adapted to City and country trade. Catalogue on morning of sale.

PEED & COLE, Auctioneers.
AUCTION SALE OF CHINA AND GLASSware, fancy goods, &c., on TUESDAY, at 10½ o'clock, at No. 343 Fulton-st., Brooklyn, by PEED & COLE, comprising elegant cut glassware, China tea sets, Bohemian, Parian and Bisquet ware, in great variety, being the entire stock of a dealer. Sold without reserve.

BROWNE & NICHOLS, Auctioneers.
WILL SELL, THIS DAY, (MONDAY,) Dec. 30, at 12 o'clock, at the Merchants' Exchange, (for account of whom it may concern, hypothecated,) $32,000 of the 2d Mortgage Bonds of the Peoria and Oquaka Railroad Company.

B. H. SEIAS, Auctioneer.
ASSIGNEES' AUCTION NOTICE.—THE great sale of china, glass and plated-ware, &c., &c., will be continued TO-DAY, (Monday,) over Wm. Taylor's saloon, No. 600 Broadway.

AUCTION SALES.

DANIEL A. MATHEWS, Auctioneer.
WILL SELL, TO-MORROW, TUESDAY, DEC. 31, AT 10½ O'CLOCK, AT HIS SALESROOM, 79 NASSAU-ST., between Fulton and John sts.,
SUPERB PARIS FANCY GOODS,
REAL PARIAN MARBLE STATUARY,
ELEGANT CLOCKS,
RICH SILVER-PLATED WARE,
ARTISTIC BRONZES, ELEGANT VASES, &c.
The Goods are now on Exhibition.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

FEMALES.

AS CHAMBERMAID, &c.—WANTED, A situation, by a respectable Protestant girl, as chambermaid, or chambermaid and waitress, or would do general housework in a small private family. She understands her business in either capacity, is cleanly, active, willing and obliging. The best City reference. No objections to the country. Call for two days at No. 107 East 13th-st., bet. 3d and 4th avs.

AS CHAMBERMAID AND LAUNDRESS.—Wanted, a situation by a young woman as chambermaid and laundress, or cook and laundress. Best of City reference. Call, for two days, at No. 85 East 15th-st., in the store.

AS CHILDREN'S MAID, &c.—A SITUATION wanted by a Protestant American young girl to take care of children, and make herself useful; good City reference given. Call for two days at No. 113 Canal-st., between Chrystie and Forsyth sts., fifth floor, front room.

AS COOK.—A SITUATION WANTED, AS COOK, by a capable and trustworthy woman, in a private family; understands her business well; can be seen and recommended from her present employers. Inquire at No. 359 6th-av., near 22d-st. To save annoyance in the street, ring the private door-bell next the jeweler's.

AS COOK.—A RESPECTABLE WOMAN WISHES a situation as first-class cook in a private family; she thoroughly understands her business in all its branches, and can produce the most satisfactory City reference as to character and capability. Can be seen, for two days, at W. H. Jackson & Co.'s, grocers, under the 5th-av. Hotel.

AS COOK.—WANTED, A SITUATION, BY A young woman who perfectly understands French and English cooking, in a private family or boarding-house, or to go out by the day; best of references given. Apply at No. 106 East 16th-st., between 1st and 2d avs., in the basement.

AS COOK, &c.—WANTED, A SITUATION BY A respectable woman as cook; is an excellent cook, washer and ironer; understands her business well; can give the best of reference; is willing to go for moderate wages to a good home. Call for two days at No. 46 West 13th-st., between 5th and 6th avs., second floor, front room.

AS COOK, &c.—WANTED, BY A PROTESTANT young woman, a situation as cook, and to assist with washing; is an excellent plain cook, a good baker of bread and biscuits; has good City reference; no objection to the country. Can be seen for two days at the Protestant Employment Agency, No. 125 4th-av., between 12th and 13th sts.

AS COOK, WASHER AND IRONER.—Wanted, a situation by a respectable girl, to cook, wash, and iron, in a private family. She has the best of City reference. Can be seen for two days at No. 118 7th-av.

AS PLAIN COOK OR GENERAL SERvant.—A situation wanted (either in the City or country) by a smart, industrious servant girl; is an excellent washer and ironer, neat, obliging, and trustworthy; will try to please, at moderate wages, and refers to her late employer. Apply at No. 113 Atlantic-st., near Henry, Brooklyn.

AS PROFESSED COOK.—SITUATION WANTed, by a respectable Protestant Englishwoman, as professed cook; she is fully experienced in all its branches, and has the best of City references; no objection to a short distance in the country; she will be found willing and obliging. Call for two days at No. 85 East 15th-st., between Irving-place and 3d-av., first floor, up stairs, next the fancy store.

AS GENERAL SERVANT.—WANTED, BY A neat, tidy girl, who has lived in a gentleman's family in Ireland, a situation as general servant; washes and irons well; or as chambermaid and waitress. Wages $6, in City or country. Call or address, No. 184 East 21st-st., two days.

AS NURSE AND SEAMSTRESS, OR AS chambermaid and seamstress. Advertiser can operate on Grover & Baker's sewing-machine; can cut out and make children's frocks, to fit in the neatest manner; has a first-class City reference; is a Protestant; has no objection to any part of the country in the North. Will be heard of for 3 days. Address C. M., Box No. 125 *Times* Office.

AS SEAMSTRESS.—A SITUATION WANTED by a seamstress that went out by the day, who is out of employment; wages no object, wants a home, or will go out for a month; has the best of City reference. Address No. 87 West 19th-st., near 6th-av., rear.

FREE TO EMPLOYERS.—HOUSEKEEPERS will please notice, that we furnish, free of any charge, female help, such as are well qualified and highly recommended to fill any station, in City or country—cooks, chambermaids, waiters, nurses, seamstresses, house-workers, &c. Call at LOWERRE'S first-class Agency, No. 320 4th-av., near 25th-st.

COOKS, CHAMBERMAIDS, WAITERS, NURSES, SEAMSTRESSES, HOUSEWORKERS, &c.—N. B. Positively none but nice, tidy, sober, honest, competent and obliging girls need come. Only good families and first-class servants furnished at LOWERRE'S office, No. 320 4th-av., near 25th-st.

A LADY WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN A place in a gallery to color pictures, sell cases, &c., or would color lithographs, maps, or anything in that line. Address COLORIST, Box No. 101 *Times* Office.

MALES.

AS CLERK OR SALESMAN.—WANTED, by an experienced person, a position as clerk or salesman, in a grocery or variety store. The best of reference. Address G. A. C., Box No. 166, Harlem, N. Y., or G. A. CLARKE, Box No. 155, Newport, R. I.

WANTED—A SITUATION BY AN AMERICAN married man, to take charge of a gentleman's country residence, or could take charge of a farm; thoroughly understands taking care of cattle and horses; has no children. Address S. S., Box No. 210 *Times* Office.

WANTED—EMPLOYMENT OF ANY KIND BY A stout young man, who has had four years' experience as clerk in a first-class grocery. Address L. A. C., Box No. 134 *Times* Office.

HELP WANTED.

AGENTS CAN MAKE $5 PER DAY—MALE or female, selling Lloyd's great steel-plate Military Map and Gazeteer of the fifteen Southern States: five feet square; worth $10, price only fifty cents. Lloyd's $100,000 steel-plate Topographical Map of Virginia, five feet square. This is the only map used by Gen. McClellan; worth $20, price 25 cents. Lloyd's official steel-plate Map of Missouri; worth $5, price 25 cents. Lloyd's $5 Railroad Map of America, 3,000,000 copies of which have already been sold; price 25 cents. Agents supplied at half the retail prices, and maps warranted. Maps sent by mail anywhere for two cents postage.

J. T. LLOYD, American Map Publisher, No. 164 Broadway, and Louisville, Ky.

$100—Wanted, a smart young man to open an office in Cincinnati, and take the exclusive wholesale agency for all of Lloyd's great Military Maps, which sell like the wind. One hundred dollars is sufficient capital. To a young man who will follow instructions, $100 a week may be made. Also, agents to go to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Canada, Detroit, Indianapolis, and Rochester, N. Y., and every other State.

$500—Wanted, an enterprising man, to go to California, and take the exclusive agency for all of Lloyd's great Military Maps. A fortune can be made on these maps in California. Over 3,000,000 copies of one of my maps have been sold in the States, already. Also, a man to go to Havana, South America, Mexico, Germany, and Italy. France and England are taken, and agents coining money.

LLOYD'S MAPS ARE IN FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN.

EVIDENCE OF THE CORRECTNESS
OF
LLOYD'S MAPS,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 2, 1861.

J. T. LLOYD, Publisher:

SIR: Please forward immediately, by mail, directed to the secretary of State, Copies of Lloyd's Topographical Map of Virginia, Lloyd's Military Map and Gazetteer of the Southern States, Lloyd's Official Map of Missouri, and Lloyd's American Railroad Map. Send your bill to George E. Baker, Disbursing Clerk. Also send me circulars of all new maps you may issue. Respectfully, yours,
J. C. DERBY, Librarian State Department.

From the New-York Herald, Nov. 2, 1861.

We have received a fine copy of Lloyd's great Military Map of the "Seat of War in Virginia." This is the best and only official map in existence, taken from actual surveys by order of the Executive. It is beautifully printed from steel plates, and colored with great perfection of art, and is the only map used in the planning of our campaigns in Virginia by our Commander-in-chief. The publisher is J. T. Lloyd, No. 164 Broadway.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Nov. 8, 1861.

J. T. LLOYD, ESQ.

SIR: I am well pleased with your Map of Virginia. It is altogether the best I have seen. I inclose $1 for three copies of Lloyd's great steel-plate Military Map of the Southern States. Respectfully yours,
MILLARD FILLMORE.

WANTED—AN INTELLIGENT MAN, BETWEEN 25 and 35 years of age, who is a good accountant, and has some knowledge of machinery, to superintend the general business of a manufacturing establishment and to reside in this City. Address Box No. 2,625 Post-office, with references. No application will be entertained unless full references are given.

A LAUNDRESS.—WANTED, AN EXPERIenced laundress. The best City references for character and capability will be required. Apply at No. 8 West 32d-st., between 10 and 12 A. M.

A WAITRESS.—WANTED, AS WAITRESS, one who understands her business and can furnish good City reference. None need apply except those perfectly competent. Apply at No. 131 West 14th-st.

WANTED—A CLERK FOR A STEAMER, CLERK for a shipping office, two porters, one stewardess. Apply at No. 7 Chatham-square.

CASH PAID FOR OLD NEWSPAPERS, pamphlets and blank books of every description. STOCKWELL & EMERSON, No. 25 Ann-st., Basement.

BOOTS AND SHOES SELLING OFF AT HALF PRICE.—A large quantity of ladies', gents' and misses' boots and shoes, of all descriptions, suitable for Winter wear, are now being offered at half price. All will find it to their advantage to call at No. 627 Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker sts.

DRY GOODS.

BALMORAL SKIRTS AND HOOPS
Of every kind, at low prices, during the Holidays.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 Broadway.
Nos. 255 to 261 Grand-st.
Nos. 47 and 49 Catharine-st.

OUR ENTIRE STOCK OF CLOAKS,
INCLUDING BLACK CLOTH AND VELVET CLOAKS in great variety, will be offered on MONDAY, Dec. 30, will be continued, and during the Holidays,
BELOW COST!!!
A large lot of FANCY CLOTH CLOAKS, at the following low prices:
100 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $2, formerly $6
200 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $3 50, formerly $8.
100 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $7, formerly $18.
100 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $8, formerly $20.
50 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $14, formerly $25.
ALSO,
One case RICH EMBROIDERED VELVET CLOAKS and short SAQUES, of the prevailing Paris styles, received per steamer *Europa*,
SUITABLE FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
will be sold at less than the cost of importation, owing to the advanced season.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

PARIS KID GLOVES AT 62½ CENTS.
500 DOZEN LADIES' PARIS KID GLOVES,
RETAILED AT 62½ CENTS PER PAIR.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.

RICH PARIS DRESS SILKS,
SUITABLE FOR PROMENADE, DINNER, CARRIAGE and EVENING DRESSES.
VERY CHOICE STYLES—CHEAP!
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

GENTLEMEN'S TIES, SCARFS, HDKFS.,
GLOVES, HOSIERY, SILK AND WOOL DRAWERS, &c., &c.
LARGE ASSORTMENT—CHEAP!
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

EMBROIDERIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS,
IN SETS, COLLARS, HANDKERCHIEFS, CAPS, WAISTS, &c., &c.
Also, low-priced and
RICH LACES IN GREAT VARIETY.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

TARLETONS FOR EVENING DRESSES,
SPANGLED, EMBROIDERED AND PLAIN, at one-third
THE COST OF IMPORTATION.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.

FASHIONABLE DRESS GOODS.
AN IMMENSE ASSORTMENT AT low prices.
FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

BARGAINS
FOR
HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
STRANG, ADRIANCE & CO.,
NO. 355 BROADWAY,
HAVE NOW READY,
SEVERAL THOUSAND DRESSES,
Put up with prices marked in plain figures on each Dress, at a great reduction on former prices,
viz.:
1,000 DRESSES MOUSLAINE DELAINE, at 12 1-2c. per yard.
14,000 DRESSES SUPER CHINTZ at 15c. per yard.
500 DRESSES PRINTED REPS.
1,500 DRESSES ENGLISH and other PRINTS (fast colors) at 10c. per yard.
800 DRESSES, yard wide, CHINTZ COLORS, at 12 1-2c. per yard.
200 DRESSES SCOTCH GINGHAMS at 12 1-2c. per yard.
1,000 DRESSES of VELOUR OTTOMANS, BROCHE REPS, PLAIN REPS, PLAIN CASHMERES, and a great variety of other
DRESS GOODS,
ROM $1 25 TO $4 THE DRESS,
ALSO,
GREAT BARGAINS
IN
SILKS, SHAWLS, MERINOS, EMBROIDERIES, GLOVES and HANDKERCHIEFS.

F. DERBY & COMPANY,
TAILORS.
No. 87 Walker-street,
Will open on Monday a large variety of
BALL AND DRESS WAISTCOATINGS,
comprising Embroidered Cassimeres,
Cevatian Wool, and
French Cashmeres,
at very reduced prices.
The Public and the Trade supplied during the Holidays by the pattern or yard.

HAPPY NEW-YEAR.
AT MACY'S,
ALL THE BALANCE OF OUR CHRISTMAS TOYS, CHINA ORNAMENTS,
Fancy Boxes, now closing at cost and
Less than cost, to clear them out by
New-Year's.
Everybody made happy at MACY'S.
Full stock or Ribbons, closing low.
Complete stock of French and Scotch Embroideries, Bands, Flouncings, Needle-Work Handkerchiefs, Points, Collars, Guipure Collars, Thread Veils, Coiffures, Barbes, Sleeves, Capes, Night-Caps; Dress Caps, Head Dresses, Fancy Fans, French Flowers, Ladies' Made-Up Under-clothing, &c., closing at prices
Certain to make everybody happy.
Full stock of Gents' Handkerchiefs, plain and Hem-Stitched and colored Bordered.
Full stock of Hosiery, Gloves and Under-Wear.
Splendid assortment of
Embroidered Lace Curtains,
Embroidered Lace for Curtains, by the yard.
Nottingham Lace Curtains,
Nottingham Laces for Curtains, by the yard,
Tidies, &c., adapted to the New-Year.
NOW OPENING
1,000 dozen white, light colors, mode colors and blacks of our celebrated Kid Gloves, 63 cents a pair.
R. H. MACY,
Nos. 204 and 206 6th-av., 2d door below 14th-st.

BARGAINS EXTRAORDINARY,
IN
LACES AND EMBROIDERIES,
FOR
HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
Consisting of
1,000 Misses' French Embroidered Sets, 75 cents—regular prices, $1 75.
200 Ladies' French Embroidered Sets, $1, $1 50, and $2—regular prices, $2 50, $3 50 and $4 50.
1,000 Ladies' Embroidered Collars, 40c., 50c., 60c., and 70c.—just half the usual prices.
500 rich Paris Embroidered Collars, $1 50—regular price, $3 50.
500 Paris Embroidered Collars, (very rich,) $1 75, and $2—regular prices, $4 to $6.
1,000 real Point Lace Collars, from $2 50 and upwards.
1,000 Lace and Embroidered Handkerchiefs, imported expressly for the Holidays.
Also—Coiffeurs, Barbes, Capes, Berthes, &c., &c
250 pieces Valenciennes Laces; all prices.
Ladies have now a golden opportunity to purchase articles for presents, which are both useful and ornamental, at very moderate prices.
E. WILLIAMS & CO.,
(late Peter Roberts,) No. 429 Broadway.

CLOAKS! CLOAKS! CLOAKS!
NEW AND FASHIONABLE GARMENTS,
MANUFACTURED EXP

FINANCIAL.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

OFFICE
GREAT WESTERN
MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY,
Great Western Buildings, Nos. 31 and 33 Pine-st.,
NEW-YORK.

THE USUAL SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST DIVIDEND of 3½ per cent. on the $1,600, 000 Cash Capital Stock of this Company, will be paid at this office, on and after Jan. 2, 1862. Transfer books will be closed from on and after the 20th inst.

DOUGLAS ROBINSON, Secretary.

UNION DIME SAVINGS BANK,
No. 489 CANAL, CORNER OF VARICK-ST.
Open daily from 10 A. M. to 2, and from 5 to 7 P. M.
Deposits received on or before Jan. 20 will draw interest from the 1st inst.
5 per cent. interest allowed on all sums of $500 and under, and 5 per cent. on larger amounts.
THIS BANK HAS OPENED 7,142 ACCOUNTS, AND RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT $857,392 46 IN THE PAST 30 MONTHS.
E. V. HAUGHWOUT, President.
GARDNER S. CHAPIN, Secretary.

THIRD-AVENUE SAVINGS BANK,
Corner 3d-av. and 25th-st.
CHARTERED 1854.
Six per Cent. interest allowed on all sums from $1 to $1,000.
DEPOSITS WILL DRAW INTEREST FROM JAN. 1.
Bank open daily from 10 to 3, also on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from 6 to 8 o'clock.
SPENCER K. GREEN, President.
STEPHEN S. CHILDS, Secretary.

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.,
NO. 59 WALL-ST.,
ISSUE COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELERS' CREDITS FOR USE IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD.

CONTRACTORS' BILLS
For Army and Navy supplies collected cheaply and expeditiously, or purchased on favorable terms, by
LIVERMORE, CLEWS & MASON,
Nos. 41 and 43 Wall-st., New-York

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY—NEW-YORK, Dec. 5, 1861.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, held at their Office in New-York this day, it was

Resolved, That an assessment of FIVE DOLLARS per share upon the Scrip Shares of the Capital Stock of the Company, be and the same is hereby called payable on the twentieth day of January, 1862; and that the same be payable on the Stock registered in the City of New-York at the Office of the Company in that City; and on the Stock registered in London, at the Office of Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., London; and that parties desiring to pay their assessment in London, may pay the same at a rate of exchange sufficient to produce five dollars per share to the Company in the City of New-York.

Resolved, That the transfer books be closed on the afternoon of the 15th January next, and reopened on the 20th day of the same month; and that no transfer be permitted on or after that day of shares upon which the foregoing assessment shall not have been paid.

THOMAS E. WALKER, Treasurer.

The eighty-dollar certificates to be returned on payment of the above.

NOTICE.—THE BANK OF MONTREAL HAVING established an Agency at Chicago, is prepared to do a General Banking business, and, in connection therewith, will attend to the collection of commercial paper in all accessible points throughout the West. Collections in interior points will be at the risk of owners, care being used in selecting the most reliable medium.

CHICAGO, Oct. 16, 1861. E. W. WILLARD, Agent.

Referring to the above, we are prepared to draw, purchase and collect upon Chicago on favorable terms.

We also purchase and collect upon the Canadas, and issue drafts and credits upon the various branches of the Bank of Montreal and the Union Bank of London.

RICHARD BELL and A. OGILVIE,
No. 32 Pine-st.,
Agents for the Bank of Montreal, New-York.

CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS AND CINCINNATI RAILROAD COMPANY, CLEVELAND, Dec. 16, 1861.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS of this Company will be held at the Office of the Company, Cleveland, Ohio, on WEDNESDAY, January 8, 1862, for the election of eleven Directors, and for the transaction of important business relating to the purchase of that part of the Springfield, Mount Vernon and Pittsburgh Railroad lying between Delaware, Ohio, and Springfield, Ohio, and other business. The transfer books will be closed on the 27th inst., and remain closed until the 9th January next. By order of the Board of Directors.

GEORGE H. RUSSELL, Secretary.

FIFTY-FIFTH DIVIDEND—BROOKLYN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held at their office, No. 16 Merchants' Exchange, New-York, on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1861, it was—

Resolved, That the usual Dividend of Ten (10) per cent. be paid upon the capital stock of the Company, on and after the 2d day of January next, out of the profits for the last six months, leaving a balance of said earnings of 3½ per cent., which is added to the surplus fund.

By order,
WM. F. LEGGETT, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE HAMILTON FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
No. 11 Wall-st., New-York, Dec. 18, 1861.

THE STOCKHOLDERS ARE HEREBY notified that a Semi-Annual Dividend of Four (4) Per Cent has been declared, and will be payable on and after the first Monday in January next.

An election of Directors for the ensuing year will also be held on the same day. Polls open from 12 M. to 2 P. M.

This Company continues to insure, as usual, on the most reasonable terms.

J. C. WINANS, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD CO.,
NEW-YORK, Oct. 29, 1861.

HOLDERS OF THE STOCK OF THIS Company, as registered upon the books of the company at the close of business on the 15th day of January, 1862, will be entitled to Canceled Bonds Scrip for five dollars upon each share of Stock held by them deliverable on or after the 1st day of February next; and parties holding certificates are hereby notified to have the same registered in their own names on or before the said 15th day of January.

THOMAS E. WALKER, Treasurer.

WESTERN VERMONT RAILROAD.—PURSUANT to the order of the Court of Chancery of the State of Vermont, a Dividend of Three and One-Half (3½) per cent. on the principal of the First Mortgage Bonds upon said Railroad, will be said at the Mechanics' Bank, in the City of New-York, on and after the 1st day of January, 1862, to the order of such persons as shall have proved their bonds.

SHEPERD KNAPP,
GEORGE BRIGGS, } Trustees.

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION—NO. 396 WARREN-ST.—Interest allowed at the rate of 6 per cent. on sums from $1 to $500, and 5 per cent. on sums over that amount. Open daily, from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M. Also on Monday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, from 4 to 7 P. M.

CASPER SHEE, President.
WILLIAM M. PULLIS,
SYLVANUS S. WARD, } Vice-Presidents.
VANDERBILT L. BUXTON, Secretary.

MARINERS' SAVINGS BANK, NO. 1 33d-av., opposite the Cooper Institute. Deposits made on or before the 1st of January will bear interest from that date.

BANK OPEN DAILY from 9 to 2 P. M. and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS from 5 to 8 o'clock. THOS. B. STILLMAN, President.
ISAAC T. SMITH, Secretary.

BANK OF NEW-YORK.—THE BOARD OF Directors of the Bank of New-York have this day declared a Dividend of Three per Cent. on the capital stock of the Bank, for the current six months, payable to the stockholders on and after the 2d day of January next. The books of transfer will be closed from this date to the 6th day of January. W. B. MEEKER, Cashier.
DEC. 17, 1861.

MECHANICS' AND TRADERS' BANK, No 153 BOWERY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 25, 1861.

AN ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS OF this institution, for the ensuing year, and for three Inspectors for the next ensuing election, will be held at the Banking house, on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8, 1862. Po ll will be open from 2 to 3 o'clock P. M.

GEO. W. YOUK, Cashier.

BROADWAY BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1861.

TWENTY-FOURTH DIVIDEND.—A SEMI-annual dividend of (5) Five per Cent., on the Capital Stock of this Bank, from the earnings of the current six months, will be paid on and after the 2d day of January, 1862. The transfer books will remain closed until that date. By order.

J. L. EVERITT, Cashier.

THE PARK BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 28, 1861.

THE DIRECTORS OF THIS BANK HAVE this day declared the usual Semi-annual Dividend of Four Per Cent., payable on and after the 10th of January, 1862. The Transfer Books will be closed from the 1st to the 10th of January, inclusive.

CHAS. A. MACY, Cashier.

ATLANTIC SAVINGS BANK, CHATHAM-SQUARE.—Receives deposits from 25 cents to $5,000. Six per cent. interest allowed on sums of $500 and under. This Bank has received during the past year $46,570 67 more than it has paid out.

M. D. VAN PELT, President.
JOSEPH P. COOPER, Secretary.

MANUFACTURERS' AND MERCHANTS' BANK, No. 561 and 563 Broadway, NEW-YORK, Dec 20, 1861.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THIS Bank have declared a dividend of three (3) per cent., payable on and after the 2d day of January next, until which date the transfer books will be closed.

A. MASTERTON, Cashier.

CONTINENTAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1861.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONTINENTAL BANK have this day declared a dividend of Three Per Cent., payable on and after MONDAY, Jan. 6, 1862. The transfer books will be closed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6, inclusive.

E. W. TALMAN,
Assistant Cashier.

INTEREST NOTICE.—THE COUPONS ON THE first mortgage bonds of the Joliet and Chicago Railroad Company, due Jan. 1, 1862, will be paid on presentation at the office of Messrs. M. K. Jesup & Co., No. 44 Exchange-place, on and after Jan. 2.

T. B. BLACKSTONE,
President.

COLLECTIONS IN WASHINGTON, D. C.—Claims on any of the Departments, Quartermasters' accounts, and Notes payable in Washington, D. C., collected with promptness and on reasonable terms by
RIGGS & CO., No. 56 Wall-st.

APPROVED BILLS FOR SUPPLIES FURNISHED the War and Navy Departments cashed by
JOHN E. MURRAY,
No. 39 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.

FINANCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES, NEW-YORK, Dec 27, 1861.

HOLDERS OF THE TWO YEARS' TREASury Notes, bearing interest at six per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, issued under the Act of the 2d of March, 1861, are informed that the interest on such Notes to the 1st of January, 1862, will be paid at this office after that day, provided that such Notes, with a schedule signed by the holder thereof, showing the number, date and amount of each note, together with the interest due thereon to said 1st of January, are lodged here three days beforehand for verification and stamping.

JOHN J. CISCO, Assistant Treasurer U. S.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES, NEW-YORK, Dec. 26, 1861.

UNITED STATES THREE YEARS 7 3-10 per cent. bonds, dated Oct. 1, 1861, are now ready to be issued at this office in exchange for gold coin or United States demand notes. In addition to the principal the purchaser will be required to pay the accrued interest upon said bonds up to the date of issue inclusive.

JOHN J. CISCO,
Assistant Treasurer United States.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ADJUSTED.

Claims upon the War and Navy Departments; the Treasury; Pension, Land and Census Bureaux; and the accounts of Army, Navy and Mail Contractors adjusted in person by our resident agent in Washington,

Hon. HORATIO KING,
late Postmaster-General of the United States.
JOHN B. MURRAY, Army and Navy Banker,
No. 39 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.
Claims are made up and forwarded to Washington daily.

MARINERS' SAVINGS INSTITUTION, No. 13d-av., (Opposite the Cooper Institute), Dec. 28, 1861.

INTEREST ON DEPOSITS AT THE RATE of SIX PER CENT. per annum on sums of $500 and under, and at FIVE PER CENT. on sums over $500, will be payable on and after the 20th January.

Dividends not drawn will bear interest from 1st Jan., same as a deposit.

BANK OPEN DAILY from 9 A. M. to 2 P. M., and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY from 5 to 8 P. M.

THOMAS B. STILLMAN, President.
ISAAC T. SMITH, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE HOUSATONIC RAILROAD COMPANY, BRIDGEPORT, CONN., Dec. 26, 1861.

THE COUPONS OF THIS COMPANY, DUE 1st prox., will be paid by Messrs. KETCHUM, SON & CO., of New-York, or by the Treasurer at Bridgeport.

The Bonds of the Company maturing on that day, of which there are $50,000, may be exchanged for other Bonds of the Company, retaining the same perfect security, and the same rate of interest, or they will be promptly paid in cash at either of the places named, at the option of the holders.

H. NICHOLS, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF THE PANAMA RAILROAD COMPANY, TONTINE BUILDINGS, No. 88 WALL-ST. NEW-YORK, Dec. 24, 1861.

NINETEENTH DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF Directors of this Company have this day declared a Dividend of Six per Cent. out of the earnings of the Road, for the six months ending 31st inst., payable to stockholders or their legal representatives on and after the 2d of January next. The transfer books will be closed from this day until the morning of Monday, the 6th of January.

HENRY SMITH, Treasurer.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.—MANHATTAN SAVINGS INSTITUTION—Dec. 26, 1861.—Interest will be paid on all deposits in this Institution (by the rules entitled thereto) at the rate of Six Per Cent. per annum, on all sums of $500 and under, and at the rate of Five Per Cent. per annum on all sums over that amount, payable on and after Jan. 20, 1862. Interest will be credited under date of Jan. 1st, and if not withdrawn will receive interest the same as a deposit. By order

E. J. BROWN, President.
A. L. ALVORD, Secretary.

NOTICE.—THE FOLLOWING NOTES HAVE been obtained from us by fraud, and are without value received:

Note dated New-York, Sept. 20—3 months—$322 50.
Note dated New-York, Sept. 20—4 months—$266 37.
Note dated New-York, Sept. 14—4 months—$246 60.
Note dated New-York, Sept. 12—5 months—$246 25.
Draft dated New-York, Sept. 9—30 days—$247 50.
Draft dated New-York, Sept. 10—90 days—$255 60.

FOWLE, HEWITT & CO.
NEW-YORK, Dec. 27, 1861.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 25, 1861.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DIRECTS that no more horses be bought until all now belonging to the Government are in active service.

The attention of all Quartermasters of the Regular and Volunteer army is called to the above order from the Secretary of War.

M. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General United States.

BANK OF AMERICA—DIVIDEND.—THE Board of Directors of the Bank of America have this day declared a Dividend of (3½) Three and One-half per Cent. for the current six months, ending Dec. 31, which will be paid to the stockholders on and after THURSDAY, the 2d day of January next. The transfer books will remain closed until the 6th day of January. By order of the Board.

WM. L. JENKINS, Cashier.

NEW-YORK & HARLEM RAILROAD COMPANY, TREASURER'S OFFICE, CORNER 4TH-AV. AND 26TH-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 27, 1861.

INTEREST COUPONS OF THE THIRD Mortgage Bonds, Bonds of 1872, and Sinking Fund Bonds, will be paid on and after Jan. 1 at the Treasurer's Office.

W. H. EMERSON, Treasurer.

METROPOLITAN BANK, NO. 108 BROADWAY.—NEW-YORK, Dec. 24, 1861.—DIVIDEND.—The Directors of the Metropolitan Bank have this day declared a Semi-annual Dividend of 3 (three) Per Cent., payable on the first Monday of January next (6th proximo.)

The Transfer Books will remain closed until the 9th January prox.

GEO. I SENLY, Cashier.

MARKET BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 30, 1861.

AN ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS OF this Bank for the ensuing year, and for three inspectors of election, will be held at the Banking House, on MONDAY, the 13th day of January next, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock. The transfer books will be closed until that date.

R. BAYLES, Cashier.

MERCHANTS' BANK, NEW-YORK.—THE Stockholders of this institution are hereby notified that an election for directors for the ensuing year and for inspectors of the then next election will be held in the Banking-house on TUESDAY, the 14th day of January next, between 12 and 1 o'clock.

J. D. VERMILYE, Cashier.

BANK OF THE COMMONWEALTH—New-York, Dec. 27, 1861.—The Board of Directors of the Bank of the Commonwealth have this day declared a dividend of three per cent., payable on and after Monday, Jan. 6, 1862. The transfer books will be closed from this date to Jan. 6 inclusive.

GEORGE ELLIS, Cashier.

AN ELECTION OF FIVE TRUSTEES OF the NEW-YORK BALANCE DOCK COMPANY will be held at the office of the Company, No. 12 Wall-st., in the City of New-York, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 P. M., on the second WEDNESDAY of January next.—Dated NEW-YORK, Dec. 28, 1861.

JAS. B. NICHOLSON, Secretary.

ROSEHILL SAVINGS BANK, CORNER of 14th-st. and 8th-av., open daily from 1 to 5 P. M. Wednesdays and Saturdays ur till 7 P. M. Six per cent. interest on all sums of $500 and under. Interest allowed from the 1st of January. THOS. CHRISTY, President.
RICH. H. BULL, Secretary.

DIVIDEND.—OFFICE OF THE MERCANTILE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, No. 65 Wall-st., New-York, Dec. 26, 1861. The Board of Directors of this Company have, to-day, declared a Dividend of Five per Cent. (5) for six months, payable on and after Jan. 2, 1862.

JOHN BAKER, Secretary.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE New-York, Providence and Boston Railroad Company have this day declared a Dividend of (2½) Two and Half Per Cent. payable on and after the 2d of January next, at the office of M. MORGAN & SON, No. 37 William-st.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 26, 1861.

IMPORTERS' AND TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., OFFICE No. 2½ WALL-ST.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF this Company have declared a dividend of Four Per Cent. on the capital stock, payable on and after Jan. 2.

FRANK W. BALLARD, Secretary.

SEVENTH WARD BANK.—NEW-YORK, DEC. 24, 1861.—FIFTY-FOURTH DIVIDEND.—The President and Directors have this day declared a dividend of Five (5) Per Cent., payable to the stockholders on and after the 2d day of January, 1862. By order of the Board,

A. S. FRASER, Cashier.

GROCERS' BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 28, 1861.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THIS Bank have this day declared a dividend of Three and one-half per Cent., payable on and after the 6th day of January next.

SAMUEL B. WHITE, Cashier.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY.—The Coupons due 1st of January, 1862, on $400,000 first mortgage bonds of that Company will be paid after that day at the office of

SCHUCHARDT & GEBHARD.

STATE OF MICHIGAN INTEREST.—THE Interest due on Michigan State Bonds, 1st January, 1862, will be paid after that date at the Metropolitan Bank, by

JOHN OWEN, Treasurer.

THE COUPONS OF THE JACKSON County (Ohio) Bonds, due Jan. 1, 1862, will be paid at the Ocean Bank after that date

CHAS. PALMER, Assistant Cashier.

INCOME BONDS BUFFALO STATE LINE RAILROAD COMPANY cashed by H. T. MORGAN & CO., William-st., at 98 cents.

LEGAL NOTICES.

PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OF PETER DORLAND, Surrogate of Dutchess County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate of SAML. B. SCHENCK, late of the town of Fishkill, in said county, deceased, are required to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the undersigned, THOMAS J. B. SCHENCK, one of said administrators of said estate, at his office, in Matteawan, in the town of Fishkill, on or before the 26th day of April next, or in default thereof their claims will be debarred and precluded from payment by said administrators out of said estate.—Dated Oct. 24, 1861.

T. J. B. SCHENCK.
n4-law6mM*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE creditors of the late firm of Messrs. JAMES BROOKS & CO., that they are requested to present their claims, with the vouchers thereof, to the undersigned, at his office, No. 28 Ferry-st., in the City of New-York, on or before the 7th day of January, 1862, with a view to a dividend.

BENEY G. LAPHAM,
Assignee of James Brooks & Co.
n18-law6wM*

STATIONERY.

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST INK.

AMERICAN UNION INK, jet black, flows freely, and does not corrode. Sold at No. 5 Ludlow-st., and at the stationers generally. JESSE G. KEYS.

DIARIES FOR 1862—ALL SIZES AND styles, for sale by the publishers,
FRANCIS & LOUTREL, No. 45 Maiden-lane.

SLOTE & JANES,
Stationers, Printers and Blank Book Manufacturers, No. 93 Fulton-st. Orders respectfully solicited.

SHIPPING.

THE BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIPS.

PASSPORTS.—All persons leaving the United States will require to have *Passports* from the authorities of their respective countries, countersigned by the Secretary of State at Washington, or by the Passport Agent at port of embarkation.

FROM NEW-YORK TO LIVERPOOL.

Chief Cabin Passage.....$130
Second Cabin Passage.....75

FROM BOSTON TO LIVERPOOL.

Chief Cabin Passage.....$110
Second Cabin Passage.....60

The ships from New-York call at Cork harbor.
The ships from Boston call at Halifax and Cork harbor.
PERSIA, Capt. Judkins. AFRICA, Capt. Shannon.
ARABIA, Capt. J. Stone. CANADA, Capt. J. Leitch.
ASIA, Capt. E. G. Lott. AMERICA, Capt. Hockley.
AUSTRALASIAN, Capt. Cook. NIAGARA, Capt. Moodie.
EUROPA, Capt. Anderson.
SCOTIA, (now building.)

These vessels carry a clear white light at masthead; green on starboard bow; red on port bow.

EUROPA, Anderson, leaves Boston, Wednesday, December 25.

AMERICA, Cook, leaves New-York, Wednesday, January 1.

NIAGARA, Moodie, leaves Boston, Wednesday, January 8.

ASIA, Lott, leaves New-York, Wednesday, January 15.

Berths not secured until paid for.

An experienced Surgeon on board.

The owners of these ships will not be accountable for Gold, Silver, Bullion, Specie, Jewelry, Precious Stones or Metals, unless bills of lading are signed therefor, and the value therefor therein expressed. For freight or passage, apply to E. CUNARD, No. 4 Bowling Green.

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS FOR EUROPE.

By order of the Secretary of State, all passengers leaving the United States are required to provide themselves with passports before they will be allowed on board the steamer.

Passengers will not be subjected to any trouble or delay in procuring them if they call for instructions at the Company's Offices, No. 15 Broadway, New-York.

JOHN G. DALE, Agent.

STEAM WEEKLY BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND LIVERPOOL.—Landing and embarking passengers at Queenstown, Ireland. The Liverpool, New-York and Philadelphia Steamship Company intend dispatching their full-powered Clyde-built Iron Steamships as follows:

EDINBURGH.....SATURDAY, Jan. 4
ATNA.....SATURDAY, Jan. 11
KANGAROO.....SATURDAY, Jan. 18

And every SATURDAY, at noon, from Pier No. 44 North River.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

First Cabin.....$75 | Steerage.....$30
First Cabin to London.....80 | Steerage to London.....33
First Cabin to Paris.....85 | Steerage to Paris.....38
First Cabin to Hamburg.....85 | Steerage to Hamburg.....35

Passengers also forwarded to Havre, Bremen, Rotterdam, Antwerp, &c., at equally low rates.

Persons wishing to bring out their friends can buy tickets here at the following rates, to New-York: From Liverpool or Queenstown, First Cabin, $75, $85 and $105. Steerage from Liverpool, $40. From Queenstown, $30.

These Steamers have superior accommodations for passengers, and carry experienced Surgeons. They are built in water-tight iron sections, and have patent fire annihilators on board.

For further information apply, in Liverpool, to WILLIAM INMAN, Agent, No. 22 Water-st.; in Glasgow to WM. INMAN, No. 15 St. Enoch-square; in Queenstown to C. & W. D. SEYMOUR & CO.; in London to EVANS & MACEY, No. 61 King William-st.; in Paris to JULES DECOUE, No. 5 Place de la Bourse; in Philadelphia to JOHN G. DALE, No. 111 Walnut-st., or at the Company's Offices.

JOHN G. DALE, Agent, No. 15 Broadway, N. Y.

FOR HAVANA, VIA NASSAU, N. P.—THE British and North American Royal Mail Steamship KARNAK, Capt. LE MESSURIER, will sail for the above ports, from the Company's wharf at Jersey City, on

TUESDAY.....Jan. 7, 1862 | MONDAY.....March 3
TUESDAY.....Feb. 4, 1862 | SATURDAY.....March 29

Passage money to Nassau.....$45
Passage money to Havana.....60

All persons leaving the United States are required to have passports from the authorities of their respective countries, countersigned by the Secretary of State at Washington, or by the Passport Agent at port of embarkation.

For freight or passage apply to
E. CUNARD, No. 4 Bowling-green.

PASSAGE TO LIVERPOOL.—THE SPLENdid British steamship DAMASCUS, JOHN ROSKELL, Esq., Commander, at Pier No. 4 North River, will sail for Liverpool, direct, on 2d January. This vessel is a great favorite in the Mediterranean as a passenger ship, and offers very superior accommodations to first-class passengers (only.) A limited number will be taken at the lowest rates. Apply to HOWLAND & ASPINWALL, No. 54 South-st.

REMITTANCE TO IRELAND, &c.—TAPSCOTT & CO. continue to draw drafts, as they have done for the past twenty-five years. Those wishing to remit money to their friends can be supplied with drafts for any amount, payable on demand in any part of Great Britain or Ireland, by applying at their old-established place of business, No. 8 South-st., New-York.

ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP AMERICA.—FOR LIVERPOOL.—The AMERICA, JAMES STONE Commander, will sail from the Company's Dock, at Jersey City, with the mails and passengers for Europe, on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 1. Passengers are requested to be on board by 8 o'clock A. M. The ASIA will sail on the 15th January. E. CUNARD, No. 4 Bowling Green.

UNITED STATES PASSPORT BUREAU, No. 262 Broadway.—Passports issued through J. B. NONES free of charge, upon proofs made before him.

RAILROADS.

NEW-YORK, HARLEM & ALBANY R. R. FOR ALBANY, TROY, NORTH AND WEST.
Winter Arrangement, commencing Monday, Nov. 4, 1861.
For Albany—10:30 A. M. Express Mail Train, from 26th-st. depôt.
For all local trains, see time-table.

JOHN BURCHILL, Ass't. Sup't.

IMPORTANT FREIGHT NOTICE.—WINTER ARRANGEMENT.—The People's line, in connection with the Harlem Railroad, have arranged for the transportation of freight between New-York and Albany during the close of navigation on the Hudson River. Freight for and from the West, *via* New-York Central Railroad and connections, will be received and delivered at the docks of the People's Line of steamers, foot of Cortlandt-st., same as in Summer. There will be no interruption at the close of navigation. The rates will be as low as by any other route. All consignments from the West should be made to People's Line as heretofore.

P. C. SMITH, Agent People's Line.

NEW-YORK AND ERIE RAILROAD.—Passenger trains from foot of Chambers-st., as follows, viz: 7 A. M., Express, for Buffalo; 8:15 A. M., Mail; 9:15 A. M., Milk, daily; 11 A. M., Accommodation, daily; 3:30 P. M., Way, for Middletown, Newburghand intermediate stations; 5 P. M., Night Express daily, for Dunkirk, Buffalo, Canandaigua, and principal stations. The train of Saturday runs through to Buffalo, but does not run to Dunkirk. 7 P. M., Accommodation.

CHAS. MINOT, General Superintendent.
NATHANIEL MARSH, Receiver.

RARITAN AND DELAWARE BAY RAILROAD, FOR LONG BRANCH, SHREWSBURY, SQUAN, TOMS RIVER, &c.—On and after Monday Oct. 28, the NAUSHON will leave New-York at 3 P. M., connecting at Port Monmouth with cars for the above places. Returning, Express train will leave Bergen at 6.50 A. M. and Long Branch at 7:25 A. M. Freight train leaves Bergen at 12½ P. M.

HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.—FOR ALBANY, TROY, THE NORTH AND WEST. Trains leave:

FROM CHAMBERS-ST. | FROM THIRTIETH-ST.
Express, 7 and 11 A. M., and 7:25, 11:30 A. M., and 3:40 P. M. | 3:45 and 5 P. M. and 5:30 P. M.
Troy and Albany. (with sleeping car,) 10:40 P. M. cluded.) Sundays (in-

LONG ISLAND RAILROAD—CHANGE OF TERMINUS.—Leave James-slip and 34th-st. Ferries, New-York, at 9:30 A. M., for Greenport; 9:30 A. M. and 3:30 P. M. for North Islip, and Saturday to Yaphank; 9:30 A. M. and 3:30 P. M. for Syosset; 9:30 A. M., and 3:30 and 5 P. M. for Hempstead; 9:30 A. M., 3:30, 5 and 6 P. M. for Jamaica. Trains leave Hunter's Point on arrival of boat from James-slip.

LONG ISLAND RAILROAD COMPANY.—INTEREST ON BONDS.—The coupons due Jan. 1, 1862, on the mortgage bonds of this Company, will be paid after that day at the Bank of the State of New-York, New-York.

WM. S. RUSSELL, Treasurer.
HUNTER'S POINT, Dec. 28, 1861.

NORTHERN RAILROAD OF NEW-JERSEY.—Trains leave Jersey City for Piermont at 9:15 A. M. and 12:05, 4:25 and 6:05 P. M.; for Munsey at 4:25 P. M., and for Suffern at 9:15 A. M.

T. W. DEMAREST, Supt.

STEAMBOATS.

SHREWSBURY—DECEMBER AND JANUARY —HIGHLANDS, PORT WASHINGTON, MOUNT'S AND BROWN'S DOCK, FAIRHAVEN AND RED BANK.—The new and splendid steamer, HIGHLAND LIGHT, Capt. H. B. PARKER, will run as follows, from foot of Robinson-st., North River:

LEAVE NEW-YORK.	LEAVE RED BANK.
Friday, Dec. 13, 2 P. M.	Friday, Dec. 13, 12½ P. M.
Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 P. M.	Monday, Dec. 16, 7½ A. M.
Monday, Dec. 16, 2 P. M.	Tuesday, Dec. 17, 8 A. M.
Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2½ P. M.	Wednesday, Dec. 18, 8 A. M.
Thursday, Dec. 19, 9 A. M.	Friday, Dec. 20, 8½ A. M.
Saturday, Dec. 21, 10½ A. M.	Monday, Dec. 23, 8½ A. M.
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 9 A. M.	Tuesday, Dec. 24, 12½ P. M.
Wednesday, Dec. 25, 9 A. M.	Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1½ P. M.
Thursday, Dec. 26, 10 A. M.	Thursday, Dec. 26, 1½ P. M.
Friday, Dec. 27, 10½ A. M.	Friday, Dec. 27, 2 P. M.
Saturday, Dec. 28, 2 P. M.	Monday, Dec. 30, 12½ P. M.
Monday, Dec. 30, 2 P. M.	Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 A. M.
Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2:20 P. M.	Thursday, Jan. 2, 8½ A. M.
Friday, Jan. 3, 7 A. M.	Friday, Jan. 3, 10 A. M.
Saturday, Jan. 4, 11 A. M.	Monday, Jan. 6, 8½ A. M.

The LAURA will connect for Ocean House, Pleasure Bay and Long Branch, five minutes before HIGHLAND LIGHT.

Fare to Eatontown and Shrewsbury, by H. Johnson's stages and steamers, 35 cents through. Tickets on the boat.

TO NEW-HAVEN.—STEAMERS LEAVE AT 3 P. M. Passengers going beyond New-Haven take the train from there at 11 P. M., or remain on board till morning, without charge.

BUSINESS CHANCES.

ENGLISH PATENT FOR SALE.—THE UNdersigned offer for sale the right of Great Britain of BURLEY'S celebrated Dovetailing Machine, particularly adapted to the manufacture of boxes for shippers, requiring much more than ordinary strength, at a cost not exceeding the common nailed box. For the shipment of all heavy articles, such as shell, ammunition, &c., they are particularly adapted, having been adopted and now in use in the Arsenals and Navy-yards by the United States Government, in the manufacture of boxes used in the transportation of all stores, shell, ammunition, &c. The boxes made by this machine will, beyond doubt, eventually supersede the use of the old style nail-box, as they are much stronger and neater, without the use of nails, and in shipping by measurement save freight on cleats, which is a very important item. It also accomplishes the work in one hour of twenty men in one day. State Rights and French patent also for sale. Parties desirous of seeing the machine at work on sugar boxes will apply at the Excelsior Mills, Nos. 320, 324, 326 and 328 West 28th-st.

BURLEY & LOWEREE.

MEDICAL.

AFFLICTED RESTORED! IGNORANCE EXPOSED! FALLACIES UNMASKED.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO BOTH SEXES, married or single, in health or disease. DR. LARMONT'S Paris, London and New-York Medical Adviser and Marriage Guide. (50th edition, 400 pages, 100 Anatomical Illustrations,) upon Mental and Nervous Debility, Loss of Memory, Incapacity, Urinary Deposits, Involuntary Loss of Semen, nights, with the urine, or at stool; Impotency, Affections of the Bladder and Kidneys, Strictures, Gleet, Gonorrhœa, *Syphilis*, primary and constitutional, &c.

Among its contents is the anatomy of the sexual organs of the male and female—all their diseases and weaknesses; latest discoveries in reproduction; European hospital practice; quacks, advertisers, their recipes and specifics; the author's unequaled Paris and London treatment, &c.

All who would avoid unsuccessful and barbarous treatment with Mercury, Copahin, Injections, Cauterizations, Quack Specifics, Antidotes, Instruments, &c., should purchase this valuable work, for $1, of RICHARDSON, No. 1 Vesey-st.; ROSS & TOUSEY, No. 121 Nassau-st.; H. DEXTER & CO., No. 113 Nassau-st., New-York; and DE WITT, No. 13 Frankfort-st.; or consult the Doctor, at No. 647 Broadway, (up stairs,) New-York, from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.

"We concur with other papers in recommending Dr. LARMONT and his work."—*Courier des Etat Unis, German Die Reform, Dispatch, Staats Zeitung, National Democrat, Atlas, Medical Review, &c.*

NERVOUS AND SPECIAL DISEASES, MARRIAGE, &c.

By C. D. HAMMOND, M. D., Ex-Professor of Special Pathology in the Syracuse Medical College, New-York. Price $1. GODFREY, Bookseller, No. 834 Broadway, or of the author, at No. 658 Broadway.

TRIESEMAR.—PROTECTED BY ROYAL LETters patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. TRIESEMAR No. 1 is the effectual remedy for RELAXATION, SPERMATORRHŒA and EXHAUSTION OF THE SYSTEM. TRIESMAR No. 2 completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders for which Copaiva and Cubebs have generally been thought an antidote, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. TRIESEMAR No. 3 is the great and sure remedy of the civilized world for all impurities of the system, as well as secondary symptoms; obviating the destructive use of Mercury, as well as other deleterious ingredients, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove. They are in the form of a lozenge, and may lie on the toilet table without their use being suspected. Sold in tin cases at $3 each, or four $3 cases in one for $9, and in $27 cases, thus saving $9, as administered by Valpeau, Laliemand, Ronx, &c., &c. Wholesale and retail by Dr. H. A. BARROW, No. 194 Bleecker-st., (four doors from Macdougal-st.,) New-York. Immediately on receipt of remittance, forwarded to any part of the world. Attendance and consultation from 11 to 2, and from 4 till 8 in the evening, and on Sunday till 11. Triesmar can also be obtained, by authority of Dr. Barrow, from

WELLS & CO.,
No. 115 Franklin-st., New-York,
And J. WORTHINGTON,
No. 206 Fulton-st., Brooklyn.

"NEW MEDICAL BOOK.—DR. BOSTWICK'S Work on Seminal Diseases, Hints Before and After Marriage, Nervous Debility, Impotency and Kindred Affections, &c., &c., is before us, and we do not hesitate to say it is without exception the most truthful and useful work of the kind ever published, and it will be hailed by the profession as well as the public as a great benefactor to mankind. Quackery is here exposed and the truth told. It should be in every family, and in the hands of every young man and woman in the land."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Mailed by Richardson, No. 1 Vesey-st.; Godf

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

An Inquiry into the Cause of the Late Fire in the Government Stables.

Carrying Out the Law Relating to Allotment Certificates.

Preparations for the Burnside Expedition.

INTERESTING FROM RICHMOND.

What Jeff. Davis Wears, and What he Thinks.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DISPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Sunday, Dec. 29.

THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION.

Gen. BURNSIDE arrived here this morning, and has been in consultation with the President and Gen. MCCLELLAN most of the day.

INTERESTING NEWS FROM RICHMOND.

From a gentleman who has just returned from Richmond, we learn the following interesting facts: JEFF. DAVIS wears an entire suit of Georgia home-spun, of dark gray. In conversation, he stated tha the blockade had somewhat incommoded them, but England would soon raise it. LINCOLN could not surrender MASON and SLIDELL, and their situation would lead to war. He expressed confidence that the rebels would defeat the Union troops in a fair field, and that it was impossible for them to be conquered. Many members of Congress declared that rather than come again into the Union, the South would become a province of England. Great dissatisfaction was expressed in high quarters at the refusa of Secretary SEWARD to grant passes to Southerners at the North to return home to rejoin their families, and it was thought the flag of truce between Norfolk and Fortress Monroe would soon be discontinued unless that privilege was granted. Some members of Congress were urging DAVIS to consent to no more exchanges of prisoners, unless we should consider fugitive slaves as prisoners of war and exchange them. A list of prisoners to be returned in exchange for the two hundred and fifty lately sent by us was preparing, on which the three months' men would have preference. Among those on the list were Capt. BOWERS and Lieut. KNIGHTS of Rhode Island. Our prisoners are suffering, and many have died for lack of medicine and care. Not an ounce of quinine can be found in Richmond, and but little medicine of any kind.

Information has been received that Gen. EVANS has been relieved from command at Leesburgh, and Gen. HILL, of South Carolina, put in his place. An order has also been issued to enroll all males in Virginia from thirty to forty-five years old, to be held as a reserve, in case of emergency.

JANNEY, the Quaker author, has been released from prison, at Richmond.

All of the sick and wounded taken at the battle of Ball's Bluff, and who have been at Leesburgh, have been removed to Richmond.

THE RICHMOND PRISONERS DRAWING LOTS.

The following interesting details are based upon statements made by Mr. ELY:

One of the most painful incidents which transpired in the Richmond prison was the selection of hostages by lot from our officers for the safety of the rebel privateers. Soon after the conviction of SMITH in Philadelphia, of piracy, Gen. WINDER came to the prison with his Staff, and entered the room where Mr. ELY and the officers were imprisoned. He had with him a tin case and some ballots. He announced that he had been directed by the Secretary of War to execute the order which he held in his hand, and which he then proceeded to read. The order was in substance to select an officer of the highest rank of those held as prisoners of war by the Confederate States, to be held as a hostage for Captain SMITH, who had been convicted of piracy in the City of Philadelphia—he to be placed in close confinement, to be treated as a convicted felon, and to be executed in case death befel Capt. SMITH at the hands of the United States authorities. He then took seven ballots, and asked Col. LEE to read the names written upon them, and then place them in the tin case. Col. LEE said that he had no doubt that the names were on the ballots; but Gen. WINDER desired that he examine them to see that there was no unfairness in the matter, and Col. LEE then took the ballots one by one—read the names on them, and placed them in the box. Gen. WINDER then asked Mr. ELY if he would not be good enough to place his hand in the box and draw out one of the seven ballots. Mr. ELY declined, partly because he was not sure that his own name was not on one of the ballots, and partly because of the delicate nature of the office which he had been asked to perform—and he stated that he could not do it except it was with the consent and wish of his fellow-prisoners who were so much interested in the result. They at once signified their consent, stating that if lots must be drawn they were entirely willing that he should do it. With great trepidation Mr. ELY placed his hand in the case and drew out a ballot, on which was written the name of Col. CORCORAN. His feelings were of the deepest mortification, as Col. CORCORAN was then in Charleston, and moreover, he and the Colonel had been in the same mess together, and were on terms of the most ardent friendship. When the result was announced, a deep silence pervaded the room for a moment, and a gloom overcame all present. Gen. WINDER then announced that 13 hostages were to be selected for the *Savannah* privateers now in New-York, and the six Colonels were at once selected. They were Colonels COGSWELL, WOOD, WILCOX, WOODRUFF, and BOWMAN. Lieut.-Col. NEFF and Majors REVERE and POTTER were next selected. Three hostages were still wanting, and the names of fifteen Captains were then written on ballots and placed in the case and Mr. ELY was again called upon to draw out three. He did so, and the names were Capts. RICKETTS, MCQUADE, and ROCKWOOD. But as both RICKETTS and MCQUADE were suffering from bad wounds, the rebel authorities determined subsequently to exclude them from the list, and on a subsequent drawing made by Capt. COX, of Ohio, the names of Capts. KEFFER and BOWMAN were drawn.

THE CASE OF SURGEON MCGREGOR.

The next day after the arrival of the prisoners at Richmond, all the surgeons were released on parole, with permission to visit all the prisoners at will. To enable them to be recognized easily by the guards, each one wore as a badge a strip of red flannel fastened to a button-hole on his coat. A few days afterward a prisoner escaped from the tobacco-factory, and it was charged that Surgeon MCGREGOR had loaned him his badge, and thus facilitated his escape. Surgeon MCGREGOR was consequently arrested and sent to Charleston, where he still remains in close confinement.

LIEUT. DICKINSON.

Among the officers exchanged for the Hatteras prisoners, recently released from Fort Warren, was Lieut. DICKINSON, of New-London, Conn., who was one of the first prisoners sent to Charleston. He was badly wounded in the thigh, and has an abscess there from the effects of a Minie ball.

THE CHARGES AGAINST GEN. BENHAM.

Gen. ROSECRANS, having filed his charges against Gen. BENHAM, will leave by order of Gen. MCCLELLAN at once for Western Virginia, to relieve temporarily Gen. KELLY, who is so much indisposed as to be unable to keep the field.

THE FIRE AT THE GOVERNMENT STABLES.

By order of Gen. MCCLELLAN a Board of officers has been instituted, composed of Major WOOD, Capt. PORTER and Capt. BLANCHARD, to inquire into the origin of the fire of the Government stables, and to ascertain the amount of loss and damage occasioned thereby. The evidence shows that the number of horses burned is two hundred and thirty, but they have been unable to learn that it was the work of an incendiary. They meet again to-morrow.

ALLOTMENT CERTIFICATES.

The President has appointed, under the recent act of Congress to provide for allotment certificates among the volunteer forces, the following gentlemen for the State of New-York, to carry out the provisions of that bill: WM. E. DODGE, Jr., THEO. ROOSEVELT, and MORRIS KETCHUM. These gentlemen are visiting the various regiments by official authority of Gen. MCCLELLAN, who commends the objects of the bill and who has informed all the commanding officers within the army to render all the facilities in their power to promote the allotments.

MORE STRICTNESS IN ISSUING PASSES.

Within the past week fewer officers and privates are seen about the drinking houses than heretofore, the orders being more strictly enforced in the matter of granting passes.

An improvement has also been made in the military street police, and the recent introduction of mounted guards affords a remedy against unnecessary fast driving.

REVIEWS.

Gen. MCDOWELL'S Division was reviewed yesterday at Ball's Cross Roads, after which the troops had a sham battle, having taken positions as in actual engagement.

Gen. MCCALL'S Division was reviewed to-day, at Langley, by Gov. CURTIN, Secretary CAMERON and Assistant-Secretary of War SCOTT.

The army officers all say that our troops have remarkably improved in discipline.

FORAGING NEAR FAIRFAX.

The brigade under command of Gen. WADSWORTH went to the vicinity of Fairfax Court-house, Friday, and brought away a large quantity of forage. The only evidence of the presence of an enemy was a few mounted pickets.

COL. BERDAN'S INJURY.

The injury to Col. BERDAN, from trying a breech-loading rifle, is not so serious as represented. He is rapidly recovering.

SOLICITOR OF CUSTOMS.

The House Committee on Commerce are maturing a bill, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury, for the appointment of a Solicitor of Customs, salary $5,000, and an assistant, with salary of $2,500. The bill also has another important provision—the division of rebel property confiscated at the port of New-York by the law of July last, among the principal custom-house offices, as apportioned by the revenue laws.

INTERRUPTION OF THE OVERLAND MAIL.

A dispatch from Quincy, Ill., has been received stating that two railroad bridges between Quincy and Palmyra, Mo., had been burned, and the telegraph wires cut. The Overland Mail for California will therefore be sent, for the present, *via* Keokuk.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

A Flag of Truce from Norfolk—Probable Retreat of the Rebels from Bowling Green—Wonderful Rebel Stories from the Southern Coast, &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, Saturday, Dec. 28, *via* BALTIMORE, Sunday, Dec. 29.

A flag of truce brought four passengers from Norfolk this afternoon.

The following news is in the Richmond papers:

Intelligence from Bowling Green states that appearances do not indicate an engagement, although unforeseen circumstances might precipitate a fight within eight or ten days.

CHARLESTON, Friday, Dec. 27.

The Charleston *Courier* of this morning states that some Yankee gunboats exchanged a few shots with the Cole Island battery yesterday.

Dispatches received from Charleston state that a National fleet of twelve gunboats had passed up to White Point, on North Edisto, and made demonstrations on Gen. EVANS' forces. Reinforcements were sent to Gen. EVANS, and a battle was expected.

Demonstrations had also been made at other points. The South Carolina batteries disabled a few National gunboats on Tuesday last. Five National steamers anchored off Cole Island last night, and a battle was expected every hour.

AUGUSTA, Geo., Friday, Dec. 27.

It is reported here that the steamer *Gladiator* had entered a Confederate port with large quantities of arms, ammunition, &c.

The Richmond *Examiner* says that a painful rumor was in circulation, that a gentleman of that city, holding a commission in the army of the Potomac, had committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

CHARLES H. FOSTER, who has been appointed by the President United States Marshal in North Carolina, arrived here this morning, and will proceed to Hatteras the first opportunity.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

Another Victory Won by Gen. Prentiss—A Large Number of Rebels Killed, Wounded and Captured.

PALMYRA, Mo., Sunday, Dec. 29.

Yesterday, Gen. PRENTISS, with four hundred and fifty men, encountered and dispersed nine hundred rebels, under Col. DORSEY, at Mount Sion, Boone County, killing and wounding one hundred and fifty, and capturing thirty-five prisoners, ninety-five horses and one hundred and five guns. Our loss was only three killed and eleven wounded.

The rebels burned another train on the North Missouri Railroad, yesterday, and they say that they intend to destroy all the cars on the road, so as to prevent its being used.

SENATOR JOHNSON.

A correspondent of the Cleveland *Herald* furnishes it with the following extract from a letter received from Senator JOHNSON:

WASHINGTON CITY, SENATE CHAMBER, Dec. 19, 1861.

* * * * * * * *

We are anxiously looking to the movements of our National army, trusting that it will strike an effective blow before many days, and carry *terror* throughout the rebel camps. The Government cannot, and *will not*, pause much longer in making some *decided* demonstration. For Winter, the weather is open and mild, favoring in an eminent degree a Winter campaign. You no doubt see from the papers the Union sentiment and feeling manifested among my constituents in Tennessee and in other portions of the South. I am now impatiently waiting the arrival of every dispatch from Kentucky and Tennessee.

I trust in God and our cause. All will come out right. I have the honor to be, &c.,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

ARREST OF ALLEGED SECESSIONISTS.

THEY ARE SENT TO FORT LAFAYETTE.

D. L. PHILLIPS, a United States Marshal of Illinois, arrived in this City, yesterday, from Cairo, in that State, having in custody CHRISTOPHER LENDRIDGE, of Hickman, Ky., and L. R. BURNETT, of Caledonia, Ill. The prisoners were arrested by order of the State Department at Washington, upon the charge of being sympathizers with, and aiders and abettors of, the Secessionists in Kentucky and Tennessee. It is alleged that they have been in the habit, for some time past, of conveying dispatches from the Confederates in one section to those in another, while they have all the time professed great love for the Union cause. Upon their arrival here they were immediately conveyed to Fort Lafayette.

THE VOLUNTEER ENGINEER REGIMENT AT PORT ROYAL.

The three companies of this regiment, which left this city for Port Royal in the steamer *Vanderbilt* on the 16th inst., were under the command of Capt. ISRAEL G. ATWOOD, and not Major RICHARD BUTTS, as was stated at the time. The companies landed safely at Hilton Head on the morning of the 20th inst., as we learn from a private note from Capt. ATWOOD.

ARRIVAL OF WM. BAYARD.

Mr. WM. BAYARD, of Brooklyn, who rendered such valuable aid to Mr. CHARLES ANDERSON in effecting his escape from the rebels in Texas, arrived yesterday in the schooner *Sally Gay*, from Tampico.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

It does not appear very probable that recruiting for the regular army will make much progress, unless some change be made in the regulations governing this branch of the service. The inducements of a shorter term of service than usual, increased pay, more food, good clothing, one hundred dollars bounty on the expiration of the term of enlistment, and what should be greater than all, the chance of rising to the position of a commissioned officer, have not the effect, as they should have, of filling the ranks of the regular army. On the contrary, recruiting was never so dull as it is now, particularly in this City. The few applicants who do present themselves for enlistment are married men, and, therefore, cannot be taken without an order from the Superintendent. The Secretary of the Navy has adopted a plan which might be followed, with advantage, by the Secretary of war, viz.: that of advertising the different naval rendezvous, and undertaking to pay the mileage of acceptable recruits from their place of abode to the nearest rendezvous. This plan will save the expense of opening additional naval rendezvous. It was expected that Congress would at once act up on the recommendation of Secretary CAMERON, and authorise the payment of part of the $100 bounty to a recruit on his enlistment, but nothing has been done as yet. The allotment system, already in force in the navy, should be made applicable to the regular army as well. These two measures would no doubt lead to some activity in recruiting.

The number of enlistments made in New-York last week for the army, navy and marines was about two hundred and fifteen, of which two hundred were for the navy.

The greatest activity prevails at all the military posts and offices in this neighborhood. The Quartermaster's and Commissary departments in State-street have almost more business than they can get through. The Medical Purveyor's dépôt, in Grand-street, finds work for three Surgeons, two clerks, and four packers. The sum expended monthly for drugs, surgical instruments, hospital stores, &c., is a rather serious item. The Medical Purveyor, Dr. R. S. SATTERLEE, performs his onerous duties without fear or favor, and the consequence is that there has never been any complaint made as to the quality or quantity of the stores purchased by him. Nearly the whole of the medical stores used in the army come from this City. The work at the arsenal, on Governor's Island, is as brisk as ever, though it is confined almost exclusively to the receipt and transhipment of ordnance and ordnance stores.

The regular forces in New-York harbor are distributed as follows:

	Men.		Men.
Governor's Island	600	Marine Barracks	100
Fort Hamilton	800	Kate Stambler	60
Fort Lafayette	62	Vessels in harbor	300
Bedloe's island	50	Company of Third Artillery at Park Barracks	68
North Carolina	800		
Total			2,300

The vessels at the Navy-Yard are:

	Guns.		Guns.
North Carolina	84	Western World	3
Oneida	9	Ohio	2
Octorara	7	Racer	1
Dacotah	9	S. P. Williams	1
Owasco	4	Boxer Bella	1
Kanawha	4	J. Griffiths	1
Sumter	10	Kate Stambler	1
Norwich	6	Light Ship Relief	—
Connecticut	7	Adirondack, on the stocks	—

The steamer *Crusader* and bark *Restless* are off the Battery.

AMUSEMENTS.

Decidedly the most interesting announcement in the dramatic world is that issued by Mr. WALLACK, to the effect that he will to-night inaugurate a series of careful performances of the standard comedies. That the veteran manager will fulfill his promise with scrupulous fidelity, admits of as little doubt as the fact that just now our theatre-goers need bringing up to a higher standard of literary appreciation than the one which has been encouraged so long, and, we may add, so disastrously. It is time that some authoritative voice spoke a word for letters; uttered a protest against the bedizened monstrosities which pass muster with the good-tempered public as plays or spectacles. The carpenters and scene-painters have had their say for a couple of years, and no one remembers what they have said. It is well, therefore, that the memorable fruits of the drama should once more be exhibited to our wearied vision, and prove, as they abundantly will, that they have not become the worse for age. These revivals are always interesting when undertaken by Mr. WALLACK; just now they are peculiarly valuable. We have retrogressed so much, that their success is a test of our capacity for a higher kind of entertainment. A vile heresy has sprung up that any trash will do for a New-York audience, provided it is well put on the stage; hence the literary man, as an ally of good management, has been abandoned. Mr. WALLACK will, we trust, bring him back to his old post of honor. To-night, GOLDSMITH'S comedy of "She Stoops to Conquer" will be played, with a cast which cannot be equaled at any other establishment.

Mr. and Mrs. BARNEY WILLIAMS continue to draw enormous audiences to the Winter Garden, and as their engagement terminates with the week—an engagement without a parallel in point of prosperity—there is no probability of, and assuredly no necessity for a change of programme. The new fairy piece, and a couple of farces, will be played to-night. Mr. CLARKE will succeed Mr. and Mrs. BARNEY WILLIAMS, and a grand spectacle is said to be in preparation for that gentleman's *rentree*.

The Drama has had a hearing in Brooklyn, and one speculator been made happy, for the good folk went in crowds to see their temple desecrated, and Mr. JARRET did not think it necessary to make a wry face when he raked in the half dollars. We have not heard who is to be the next showman, but presume that the Board will seek one in any other place than New-York. Why Mr. JARRETT should have been favored in preference to Mr. WALLACK, Mr. STUART, and other well known managers, can be explained only on the ground that New-York, by a too free commentary on the cant of the Brooklyn directors, has offended the dignity of that body, hence a speculator from other regions was chosen. We rejoice that Mr. JARRETT has been successful, and would suggest that the next time he secures the privilege of giving entertainments in the Academy, he arrange a series of moonlight excursions from Gowanus, the Wallabout, and the mortuary precincts of Greenwood. It is but justice to add that the accidental combination under Mr. JARRETT'S direction gave great satisfaction to the Brooklynites. The performances were excellent. It is rumored that Mr. and Mrs. BARNEY WILLIAMS will commence an engagement so soon as they have completed their present successful one at the Winter Garden.

HERMANN, the conjurer, continues to attract good audiences to Niblo's Garden, and will give his farewell entertainments there during the present week. Several novelties of a startling character are to be produced, and Mr. HERMANN, we are glad to see, has liberally set apart a portion of the time for charitable purposes—giving two or three benefits in aid of the exhausted funds of meritorious benevolent institutions. The temptation to seek amusement is always heightened by such acts. Mr. HERMANN certainly provides one of the best holiday entertainments that can be found in the City. The lovers of the wonderful should not forget that this is the last week of the conjurer's stay. Mr. JARRETT, it is rumored, will succeed Mr. HERMANN, giving us a series of plays with the combination company recently so successful in Brooklyn.

Mr. BARNUM'S fairy piece "Ondina" has proved a great success, and draws crowds to the Museum every afternoon and evening, at which times it is played. There will even be more frequent performances than this during the holidays. One has to be very cautious not to see a play when he goes to BARNUM'S.

Miss LAURA KEENE'S Christmas novelties have gained favor with quickness of performance. However indifferent as literary productions, it cannot be denied that they serve as convenient mediums for good scenery and better acting. Miss KEENE, who has so long surrendered her reputation as an actress to the mean exigencies of inferior burlesque, recovers her position in the part of *Little Tom*—a fragmentary but pathetic realization of DICKENS' *Tiny Tim*. We were not aware when we wrote our notice of "Robinson Crusoe," that the work was a new version of an old Olympic burlesque. The inevitable MITCHELL will never forsake us. It is pleasant, in view of this new light, to add that the jokes added by Mr. YOUNG are by far the best part of the work.

Mr. HANLON brought his engagement to a close on Saturday evening, and the Academy of Music is for the time vacant. Although the attendance was moderately good from the commencement, it did not we fear, fulfill the great expectations entertained by the managers. There was no lack of appreciation of the daring and skill exhibited by Mr. HANLON, but the building was much too large and expensive to leave a large reward for his pecuniary and bodily risk. It is to be hoped that the reputation he has achieved in the metropolis will be of profit to him elsewhere. The Fox company of pantomimists were a pleasant addition to Mr. HANLON'S programmes. In the absence of the Ravels, they deserve to rank as the best pantomimists in the country. What they did at the Academy was done well, and with a liberality of spectacle and mechanism worthy of a longer career.

Miss KIMBERLY has secured the Brooklyn Academy of Music for New-Year's night, and will produce, for that occasion only, BOURCICAULT'S sensational drama of the "Octoroon." In the part of *Zoe*, Miss KIMBERLY has already won the highest encomiums of the Provincial Press; the other parts introduce several artists who are new to this latitude, but who are said to be good. Considerable care, we are informed, will be bestowed on the production.

The Peak Family, at Niblo's Saloon, provide a very agreeable and somewhat curious entertainment for their friends. There are four children who sing solos, duets, etc., in costume—the youngest and roundest being distinguished by a dry perception of fun. Without being in any way remarkable on the score of voice, they succeed in amusing the audience. The elders of the family (assisted by the children) perform on the bells, ringing out silvery reminiscences of polkas, waltzes and melodies. A good pianist completes the *personnel* of the troupe. An evening may be agreeably passed in this handsome saloon.

The Old Bowery Theatre—excellently managed now by Mr. STICKNEY—brought out a Christmas piece on Saturday evening, in the shape of a regular old-fashioned pantomime on the veracious subject of "Baron Munchausen." The introduction deals with agreeable regions of fairy land, where the grotesque and picturesque are nicely blended, and queer masks and pretty fairy dresses are profusely intermixed. The harlequinade is well contrived, and the antics of Clown, Pantaloon, Harlequin and Columbine keep the audience in good humor. There were some hitches in the working of the machinery on Saturday night, and a very considerable delay between the equestrian performance with which the entertainments commenced and the pantomime. These little defects will, of course, be remedied to-night.

The MYERS sisters, a company of young misses who recite scenes from plays, and sing songs, duets, &c., gave a pleasant entertainment at Irving Hall on Monday last. The night was unfortunately stormy, but notwithstanding this circumstance there was a very good attendance. The young ladies were received with great favor, and fully merited the approbation bestowed upon them. They are remarkably excellent,—being without superiors as readers, and in some scenes producing an impression as agreeable as could have been derived from the boards of our best theatre. We trust that they will have another opportunity of appearing before our public.

The "Messiah" was given at Irving Hall on Christmas evening, by the sacred Harmonic Society, under the direction of Mr. GEO. F. BRISTOW. There was a fair attendance of the members.

Mr. S. B. MILLS, the celebrated pianist, is about to organize a series of classical *soirées*—four in number. The Quartette will consist of the Brothers MOLLENHAUER, (violin and violoncello,) Mr. GEO. F. BRISTOW (second) and a tenor violin whose name we have not heard. The concerts will take place at Dodworth's Saloon early in the new year.

A grand benefit performance will be given at the German Theatre, to-night, in aid of the Fifty-second Regiment N. Y. S. V. A new fairy piece, taken from a Danish legend, and called "Das Fischermädschen von Fanoland," will be produced for the first time, with new scenery, music, &c.

GENERAL CITY NEWS.

A MAN SERIOUSLY STABBED ON A JERSEY CITY FERRYBOAT.—About 12½ o'clock on Saturday night, a man named YOUNG, was seriously stabbed in the head just as he was leaving the ferryboat at Jersey City. Mr. YOUNG is an employe on board the Cunard Steamship *America*. Some parties who were desirous of creating a disturbance, made an attack upon YOUNG, and three other persons who were with him, and, it is stated, used very abusive language towards them, on the ground that they were Englishmen. The difficulty began at the Ferry-house on the New-York side, and the attacking party continued their denunciations of England and Englishmen while on the boat. When they arrived at Jersey City, the leader of the gang opposed to John Bull, drew a knife and struck it into the right side of YOUNG'S head, near the ear. Such was the force of the blow that the blade was broken, and a portion of it left in YOUNG'S head. Dr. VARICK was sent for, and succeeded in extracting the broken instrument. The name of the party who made the assault is unknown, as he succeeded in making his escape immediately after he had given the blow.

A HORRIBLE CASE OF INFANTICIDE.—On Saturday afternoon the body of a male child was found in the slip under the Hamilton-avenue Ferry bridge, at the foot of Whitehall-street. The body was warm when found, though life was extinct. But a short time previous a woman was seen to enter the female department of the ferry house with a child in her arms, and one person was found who saw her enter the water-closet with the infant in her arms, but did not see her when she came out. Diligent efforts were immediately made by the Police and others to find this woman, but no trace of her whereabouts could be obtained. The child is supposed to be about eight months old. It was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where a *post-mortem* examination yesterday revealed the fact that death was caused by drowning. The child was very richly dressed, having on a great deal of silk, lace and velvet. It was fine looking, and apparently healthy. Coroner JACKMAN will hold an inquest on the body to-day, and he requests any person who may have seen a woman with an infant in her arms about the Ferry on Saturday, between 3 and 4 o'clock, to be present.

NEW UNIFORM OF THE CENTRAL PARK POLICE.—The Central Park Police force have appeared in a neat new uniform of gray casimere, without ornament, except the brass buttons of the long box coat, which are inscribed with the initials C. P. The gatekeepers have an additional circular mantle, which leaves the arms free, and renders the suit admirably adapted to their bleak sphere of duty.

CORONER'S INQUEST.—An inquest was held yesterday, at the New Hospital, upon the body of JOAN WILSON, a stevedore, who died from injuries received a day or two since, by falling into the hole of the ship *Lucy and Harriet*, lying at Pier No. 20 East River. Deceased was a native of Holland, 29 years of age.

FAIR FOR VOLUNTEERS' CHILDREN.—We are happy to learn that this Fair, which has been in operation for three weeks past, has been very successful. The articles still remaining on hand will be disposed of this evening without reserve, and it is hoped there will be a large attendance.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO AN EX-COUNCILMAN.—FRANCIS C. GILMORE, who accidentally shot himself, as published in yesterday's TIMES, died last evening at his residence in great agony. Mr. GILMORE was recently a member of the Board of Councilmen, and was highly respected by a large circle of friends.

Arrivals in the City.

Gen. James, of Rhode Island; Ex-Gov. Cumming, of Utah; Hon. H. G. Knight, of Mass.; Judge Strong, of Rochester; J. J. Jackson, of Virginia; R. S. Denny, of Boston; Maj. Sawyer and E. M. Hart, U. S. A.; E. C. Drake, of San Francisco: Dr. Delano, of N. Y., and J. Cawtha, of Toronto, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Capt. C. C. Seymour, bearer of the late dispatches from the British Government to Lord Lyons, and Dr. N. O. Stiles, of Plainfield, are at the Everett House.

Dr. F. B. A. Lewis, of the U. S. N.; J. C. Pope, of Prince Edward's Island; James Murray, A. P. Russell and R. W. Taylor, of Ohio; David Thaxter, of Boston; J. G. Mitchell, of Philadelphia; Otis Tufts, of Boston, and George Cleveland, of Chicago, are at the Fifth-avenue Hotel.

Dr. Wainwright, of the U. S. A.; F. S. Brownell, of Rhode Island; A. Campbell, of Montreal, and Geo. A. Davis, of Greenfield, are at the Brevoort House.

Lieut. Patilson, of the U. S. N., and lady; E. St. C. Clark, of the U. S. N.; and R. H. Chapin, of the U. S. A., are at the Astor House.

M. Teyron, of the Swedish Navy; Lieut.-Adjutant Sarten, of H. B. M. A., from Nassau; and Capt. Minhouse, of the steamship *Edinburgh*, are at the New-York Hotel.

Capt. Ira Wright, of Connecticut; Mr. Holmes, from Paris; G. H. Brooks, of the U. S. N.; W. S. Worth, of the U. S. A.; and W. W. Clements, of St. Louis, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

The Fire at the Oil Works.

OFFICE OF THE NEW-YORK KEROSENE OIL CO., Saturday, Dec. 28, 1861.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Our attention has been called to an article in your edition of Saturday, giving an exaggerated account of a fire at our works, calculated to unsettle the oil market, and do us much harm. The injury is confined to the burning of the connections of seven stills, the destruction of some two thousand gallons of unfinished oil, or a total loss of not to exceed $2,500. The fire does not in any way interfere with the daily supply of oil.

Yours, &c.,

COZZENS & CO.

LAW REPORTS.

United States District Court—Dec. 28.

Before Judge BETTS.

An order was entered this morning directing the ship *Cheshire*, taken recently as a prize, to be unloaded and her cargo to be appraised, as well as the vessel. The unloading of the vessel is looked for with interest, as it is supposed that arms will be discovered under her cargo.

Injunction to Restrain the Purchase of the Fort Gansevoort Property.

COMMON PLEAS.

Before Judge HILTON.

Isaac Dayton vs. *The Mayor, &c.*—Upon the application of the plaintiff, who is is a member of the Board of Aldermen, this Court has issued an injunction to restrain the purchase, by the Corporation, of the Fort Gansevoort property of Mr. James B. Taylor, in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Aldermen, passed on the 26th instant.

It is alleged that attempts have been made to bribe the matter through.

The injunction is returnable on Tuesday, the 31st.

The Ward's Island Purchase—A Heavy Judgment Against the City Reversed.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

Before Justices Clerke, Sutherland and Allen.

Alexander McCotter vs. *The Mayor, &c.*—This was the action brought to compel the City to accepts the deeds of the Ward's Island purchase, (consisting of about thirty-five acres of upland, and forty-eight acres of land below high-water mark,) alleged to have been purchased by the City in 1858.

The case was referred to the late Judge Mason, who upon the trial found in favor of the plaintiff, and rendered judgment against the City for $138,309 25.

From this judgment the City appealed to this branch of the Court, claiming that the title to the lands proposed to be conveyed was imperfect in respect of certain parts thereof laid out as roads, and also that there was no binding contract for the purchase of the property by the City.

The cause was argued on appeal on the 6th of November last, and stated in the TIMES of the 7th, as also of the 9th of July, 1860, and Oct. 2, 1861. The Court have now rendered judgment reversing the judgment below, and ordering a new trial, with costs to abide the event. Moses Ely and H. H. Anderson, for City; D. McMahon and Daniel Lord, opposed.

A Wife may not Testify in Her Own Behalf, at Against Her Husband, in an Action for Divorce.

SUPERIOR COURT—CHAMBERS.

Before all the Justices—Bosworth, C. J.

Elizabeth M. Johnson vs. *William I. Johnson*.—This was an action for divorce, and was tried in June, 1860, and stated in the TIMES of the 8th, 9th and 12th of that month.

Upon the trial, the divorce being sought upon the ground of cruel treatment, the plaintiff was offered as a witness in her own behalf, to sustain that allegation.

The Court ruled that the plaintiff could not be sworn as a witness in the case. In default of her testimony, the plaintiff's case was not made out, and on motion of defendant's counsel she was nonsuited.

Appeal was taken to the General Term—plaintiff's counsel insisting that there was error in the exclusion of the plaintiff's evidence in her own behalf, on the trial, and contending that under the amended code of 1860, the plaintiff was entitled to be sworn in her own behalf.

The appeal was argued at the March term, and decision was now rendered, affirming the judgment below.

The opinion in this case, as it is a very important one respecting the questions involved, will be given at an early day. Wm. Norton for plaintiff; Moses Ely for defendant.

Disposition of Criminal Cases.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

Before Justices Clerke, Sutherland and Barnard.

THE WILSON FORGERY CASE.—*The People* vs. *Wilson*.—The prisoner was convicted of forgery. The indictment did not set out the registry certificate of the note in question, and motion was made for a new trial on the ground of variance between the indictment and the proof. The Court denied the motion, and appeal was taken to this Court, where the judgment below was affirmed, the Court holding that the registry was no part of the note, and therefore need not be set out in the indictment.

THE LARCENY OF SARAH WILLIAMS.

The People vs. *Williams*.—The prisoner was convicted of larceny from the person, under the act of 1860, making that crime a felony in the City of New-York.

THE VINCENT FORGERY CASE.

The People vs. *Vincent*.—In this case the prisoner was convicted of the forgery of a certificate purporting to have been signed by "Wm. Kennedy, Commissioner of Deeds." The county in which such official resided was not signed, and the Court have now reversed the judgment on the ground that as there was no allegation that the Commissioner was for the City and County of New-York, the act was of no consequence, and there was no forgery.

The appeal was based upon the ground that such a law was unconstitutional, being local. It was now held that although the law was local in its application, it nevertheless embraced all the people of the State.

THE ANDERSON LARCENY CASE.

The People vs. *Anderson*.—The prisoner was convicted of larceny at the Sessions. The Court charged the jury that if they believed the principal witness, there was evidence sufficient to convict the prisoner.

Appeal was taken to this Court. Counsel contending that the charge of the Court was error. The Court now affirmed the judgment below, holding that as the facts were left to the jury, the language used by the Court was proper.

The People vs. *McCardle*.—A new trial was granted in this case, the Court holding that the prisoner had a right to introduce evidence on the trial to show the character of the principal witness, it being alleged that she was a prostitute. Such evidence was excluded.

Court of General Sessions.

In this Court, Saturday, before Recorder HOFFMAN, the following sentences were passed upon persons whose trial and conviction has been previously noticed:

Redmond McManus, for manslaughter in the fourth degree, in shooting Wm. Hogan, at a coffee and cake saloon in the Bowery—City Prison, six months.

Augustine Barco, for manslaughter in the second degree, in stabbing a sailor, named Williams, in Pearl-street—State Prison, six years and four months.

Peter Webar, for manslaughter in the second degree—State Prison, six years and four months.

Chas. Smith, for manslaughter in the second degree, in killing his mistress—State Prison, six years and four months.

Joseph Nimms, for manslaughter in the fourth degree, in killing James Colwell, under circumstances of great provocation, City Prison thirty days.

James Gallagher, for manslaughter in the fourth degree, in killing his wife, State Prison two years.

Joseph Johnson, for manslaughter in the fourth degree, in killing a man named Casey, under greatly extenuating circumstances, City Prison one day.

Thomas Reynolds, for murder in the second degree, in killing Frederick Wiese, State Prison for life.

Dr. Moses Louenberg and Charles M. Jefferds, convicted of murder in the first degree, will be arraigned for sentence on Monday, when the constitutionality of the law, as it now stands with reference to this crime, will be argued.

In Part II., before Judge MCCUNN, Albert Uhl, convicted of manslaughter in the fourth degree, in killing William Lee in a drinking saloon in West-street, was sentenced to two years in the State Prison.

[Advertisement.]

FOLEY'S

CELEBRATED GOLD PENS,

Gold and Silver Pencil Cases,

New styles for Holiday Presents.

JOHN FOLEY, Manufacturer,

No. 163 Broadway.

[Advertisement.]

HATS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

BEEBE & Co.,

156 BROADWAY, 156

Have a complete assortment of Gentlemen's and Young Gents' Holiday Hats.

[Advertisement.]

JUST THE THING.—"I have just thought of a welcome Christmas present for my husband," said an affectionate wife the other day. "He has always been so proud of his KNOX Hats, and never missed buying a new one every season till this Winter. I will buy him a KNOX Hat. I will go down to No. 212 Broadway, and surprise him Christmas morning with a perfect beauty of a Dress Hat." Such a wife is a treasure.

[Advertisement.]

"CENTRAL PARK SKATE EMPORIUM."—Skates from 25 cents to $25. Everything in the skating line (except ponds) to suit all ages, sexes, tastes and purses. Parlor skates. We make a specialty of skates. CONOVER & WALKER, No. 474 Broadway.

MARRIED.

BENJAMIN—PRALL.—In this City, on Thursday, Dec. 26, at St. Bartholomew's Church, by Rev. Thomas Gallaudet, Rev. EASTBURN BENJAMIN to CORNELIA A., daughter of the late Abraham A. Prall, all of this City.

DIED.

HUSBAND.—In this City, on Sunday, Dec. 29, after a short illness, Mrs. ADAH ANN HUSBAND, widow of the late Thomas C. Husband, of the Island of Jamaica, W. I., in the 42d year of her age.

The friends of her family are particularly invited to attend the funeral, from St. Peter's Church, 20th-st., on Tuesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, without further notice.

TREMAIN.—In this City, on Saturday, Dec. 28, Mrs. ELIZA TREMAIN, wife of Charles Tremain.

Funeral this day, (Monday,) 30th inst., at 3 o'clock P. M., from No. 248 8th-av.

PORTER.—In this City, on Friday, Dec. 27, Jessie R., wife of Rev. Timothy R. Porter, and eldest daughter of James T. Soutter, aged 27 years.

Funeral services will be held at the residence of her uncle, Mr. Robert Soutter, No. 287 West 22d-st., on Tuesday, at 12 o'clock.

JOICE.—In this City, on Saturday night, Dec. 28, Louis COWLES, infant son of R. L. and Caroline R. Joice.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, at the Church of St. George the Martyr, in 44th-st., between 5th and 6th avs., this day, (Monday,) at 1 o'clock.

WARNER.—In this City, on Sunday morning, Dec. 29, after a protracted illness, J. L. WARNER.

The relatives and friends of the family, and of his brother-in-law, Wm. A. Guest, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, at the Memorial Church, corner of Waverly-place and Hammond-st., without further invitation, on Tuesday, 31st inst., at 2 o